TUESDAY JUNE 7, 2011 www.saipantribune.com 50¢ Volume XXI, Issue No. 133



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate your level of confidence that the Interior Department would issue the workers regulations this month?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Outbreak!

The E. coli outbreak in Europe appears to have been caused by vegetable sprouts grown in Germany.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Street Parties

The departure of Yemen's wounded president for Saudi Arabia sets off street celebrations

WORLD...Page 16



MTV Awards

The MTV Movie Awards was more like "The Team Edward Show."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Fitial on personal leave; ETC bill action rests with Inos. PAGE 2 Palacios resigns as committee chair out of 'frustration.' PAGE 3

OVER A MONTH AFTER LEAC RATE HIKE

Higher power base rate OK'd; takes effect today

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

new electric base rate for customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. takes effect today, June 7, increasing the base rate charge of average residential customers by about 1.9 percent and commercial customers by about 5.1 percent.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approved the base rate hike yesterday, over a month after it approved an increase in the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC, rate.

Under the approved rates, customers using 500 kWh or less will be charged a monthly rate, while those consuming more than 500 KWh will be charged at per kilowatt-hour rates.

For residential customers using 500 kilowatthours or less each month, their electric base

See POWER on Page 4

NEW BASE RATES

RESIDENTIAL

- **500 kWh:** from \$5.60 to \$6.62 a
- **500 kWh to 1,000 kWh:** from 0.0160 to 0.0780 per kWh
- **1,000 kWh to 2,000 kWh:** from 0.0860 to 0.1020 per kWh
- **Above 2,000 kWh:** from 0.1270 to 0.1500 per kWh

COMMERCIAL

- **Monthly rate:** from \$7.67 to \$9.06 (for those using 500 kWh or less)
- Per kWh rate: From 0.0860 to 0.1020 per kWh

GOVERNMENT

- **Monthly rate:** From \$7.67 to \$9.06 a month (for those using 500 kWh or less)
- Per kWh rate: From 0.0910 to 0.1070 per kWh



NEW TAGS FOR FIDO

Garapan resident Edwin Macayanan, wearing stripes, fills out the form to register his 2-year-old dog Junjun (black) and 2-month-old Clint for the Dog Control Program of the Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. A total of 73 dog owners had their pet dogs registered on the first day of dog registration and tagging.

See story on Page 7

FALOMA, MALEINA STILL MISSING

FBI, DPS investigation intensified, broadened

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The scope of the investigation being done by the FBI and local police into the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk has been further intensified and broadened, according to acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon Mafnas yesterday.

See FBI on Page 4

IN 2-HOUR OPEN DISCUSSION

WITH HOUSE

Kilili urges Social Security re-enrollment, worker regs issuance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com

House of Representatives members took turns asking Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan on a host of issues for two hours yesterday, including the continued delay in the issuance of the transitional worker regulations, his

See KILILI on Page 4



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2 TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local

Fitial on personal leave; ETC bill action rests with Inos

» Last-minute meeting with House, Senate to reform program

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has been "on personal leave" since Sunday night, leaving it up to acting governor Eloy S. Inos to decide on the controversial bill suspending the educational tax credit program during periods of government austerity.

Today is the last day for the governor or the acting governor to act on Senate Bill 17-68. Without any action, the bill automatically becomes law.

Inos and press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed that Fitial left for the Philippines on Sunday night and will be back either Wednesday or Thursday.

The governor is reportedly visiting the family of first lady Josie Fitial and a close friend who is on medical emergency.

Inos, in an interview yesterday, could not say whether he will veto or approve the bill but said regardless of his final decision, the ETC program needs to be "reformed."

"The suspension is essentially a stopgap measure in my view," he added.

On the eve of the last day for action on the bill, Inos met separately with members of the House and Senate yesterday afternoon to see whether the Legislature would agree to his proposed reform of the ETC program so that there won't be a need to take "drastic" measures like suspending the program.

"That's why I need to confer with them and see if they'd agree to the reform we'd like to see. I'm pretty sure they're all for improving the program.

...Our action on the bill would heavily depend on what is it that we want to do moving forward," he said.

He said if he's going to veto the bill, he will more than likely have a lot of recommendations.

But a lawmaker said the problem with recommendations is that "nobody follows it up."

The acting governor said the administration has reviewed the bill, saw the effects and consequences—either intended or not—of suspending it, as well as effects of not reforming it.

"If they [lawmakers] agree and I hope they will agree, then we'll move in that direction and then in that case we don't have to do anything drastic like suspension," Inos said.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Education Committee and who was present during the House leadership's meeting with Inos, said it's "most likely" that Inos will veto the bill and will instead work on reforming the ETC program or go with another new bill that seeks to equally distribute ETC funds among all public and private schools, depending

on their student population.
"We would like to see what

the acting governor has decided on by Tuesday," Palacios said.

After meeting with the House leadership, Inos met with some senators late yesterday afternoon.

The Public School System and private schools are opposed to the suspension of the ETC program but are open to improving the program and in making sure that money is accounted for.

TO ENSURE TEACHERS HAVE A VOICE

Lawmakers urged to pass bill on selection of teachers' rep

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said the House of Representatives should act on a bill that would institutionalize the selection of a public school teachers' representative on the Board of Education.

Sablan made the request in a letter to House Education Committee chair Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan), a day before she failed to appear in a House committee hearing on alleged abuses and other issues surrounding the oldest public high school on island.

Sablan, along with Public School System human resource officer Charlie Kenty and Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison, was invited by Palacios' panel to testify at Friday's hearing.

The commissioner suggested in her letter to Palacios that lawmakers should pass a measure that would ensure that teachers are well represented in the policymaking body for public schools.

"I suggest that if you and the members of the Legislature are concerned that teachers lack a voice in the administration of the PSS, that the Legislature should act upon their constitutional mandate to pass legislation that would set up a process to select the teacher representative to the board as mandated by Article XV, Section 1(c) of the CNMI Constitution," said Sablan.

Sablan also disclosed in her June 2 letter that PSS and the Board of Education did not intervene in the MHS situation since no grievance or complaint had been filed against Garrison.

PSS has three policies governing grievance and complaints: policy 60-30-1-328, which is the grievance procedure for employees regarding promotional opportunities; policy 60-30-2-501, which is the general grievance procedure; and policy 60-3-3-401, the grievance procedure for contractual employment-related grievances.

"These are grievance and complaint procedures that are in place to protect every member of the PSS. Mr. [James] Yangetmai never availed himself of these procedures and has never given the PSS leadership any opportunity to address them," said Sablan.

The seat for public school teachers' representative became vacant in January 2008 with the expiration of Ambrose Bennett's term of office. The delay in appointing public school teachers' rep was caused by the PSS' unmet requirements in the CNMI Constitution that mandates the certification of a possible candidate by a collective bargaining agent of public school teachers.

The teacher representative for private schools has also been vacant since October last year when Scott Norman's tenure ended. The governor has yet to appoint anyone to this post.



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Saipan International Open Water

Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament June 18, 2011



The **Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament** returns for its third year next Saturday (June 18) at Managaha for a 1.5 km race around the small island.

The Flipper Race was inaugurated by the **Marianas Visitors Authority** in 2009 to capitalize on the island's popularity with international visitors, particularly those from Japan. Managaha has won multiple awards as #1 Snorkeling Spot at Japan's annual **Marine Diving Fair**.

Over 60 participants from Japan are expected at this year's event. For interested residents with ID, the local registration rate is \$25. Flippers, life jackets, snorkels and wet suit are allowed. June 17, 2011, is the last day to register during race orientation from 4-6 p.m. at American Memorial Park.

Whether you are visitor or a resident, join this month's Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race Tournament and discover the underwater wonders of Managaha!











This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

MISSINGSISTERS

Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI

Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Name: Luhk, Maleina Age: 9 years old Height: 4 feet Weight: 50-60 pounds

Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown Body: Petite Complexion: Tan

Characteristics: Circle birthmark left cheek Last wearing: White blouse and jeans

Last seen: As Teo, Saipan CNMI
Date missing: 6am, Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Name: Luhk, Faloma Age: 10 years old Height: 5.1 feet Weight: 90 pounds Eyes: Brown Hair: Short brown Body: Petite Complexion: Tan

Last wearing: Light green shirt with a butterfly design on the front with blue jeans

DPS is seeking help from the public. Please call 911 or contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000.00 for any information leading to an arrest. Additional \$1,000.00 is also being offered!

Please help FIND FALOMA AND MALEINA Family Contact Nos. 256-0054 or 285-4048

Palacios resigns as committee chair out of 'frustration'

>> Expresses 'disappointment' with some **House leadership members**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) stepped down yesterday as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, citing his "frustration" and "disappointment" with some members of the House leadership who he said have been uncooperative and not been upfront with their concerns on bills until they are taken up on the floor.

But in his brief letter to Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) yesterday, Palacios didn't cite a reason for his decision to step down "effective immediately."

"I am frustrated and disappointed with some members of the House leadership. They lack courtesy and lack respect for their fellow members. They didn't even have the guts to air their concerns on bills until that bill is taken up on the floor or until something's already decided," Palacios told Saipan Tribune in an interview at his office.

As of yesterday, Palacios said he has yet to decide whether he will remain a member of the committee he chaired for eight

He said the frustration is not with the people he serves, but the people he works with at the Legislature.

Former speaker and now Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) appointed Palacios as committee chairman on Oct.

18, 2010, replacing Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota). Tenorio removed Santos from the post, saying the latter had been voting along with the minority and not the majority.

In accepting the post, Palacios had said he would remain as a Republican. While he's a Republican, he's been voting along with the majority, mostly from the Covenant Party.

After some eight months as committee chair, Palacios said, "It's not worth the headache anymore."

He said while he could understand the minority members' actions right after he chose to vote for Cabrera instead of minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) as new speaker to replace Tenorio in January, he could not understand some majority members' actions.

Palacios cited some majority members' "no" vote last Friday on a committee report recommending passage of a substitute Senate legislative initiative extending private land leases from 55 years to 99 years.

He also cited a committee report on a bill amending the antilittering law to lower the steep penalty fees.

"Some members of the leadership don't even have the guts to tell me their concerns about certain bills and even during the session; they don't say anything. Some committee members don't even attend the commit-

tee meetings and do not review the bills that were assigned to the committee. They just sat on these bills and do not even voice their concerns on it until it's already on the floor," he said.

He said this has been going on for months, and he has had enough of his colleagues' seeming lack of courtesy and disrespect.

The speaker could not be reached for comment, but the House leadership is set to have a meeting this afternoon to tackle Palacios' resignation.

The vice chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan), said if he were the chairman, he would also be disappointed and upset with members of the leadership who have been rejecting bills that have been recommended for passage.

Raymond Palacios said he has yet to hear from the speaker whether he will be named acting chairman of the committee until a new chairman is appointed.

"It's up to the speaker," he said. Raymond Palacios is among those who have been cooperating and upfront with Joseph Palacios on bills assigned to their committees.

"I understand he's upset with some members of the leadership. But I do work with him, and I tell him what my concerns are," Raymond Palacios said.

Joseph Palacios also cited

one instance when a House leadership member "didn't have the guts to tell straight to Rep. Froilan [Tenorio] that his bill was already filed" when they're both members of the majority."

"Every bill that will be introduced in the House, I will look into it, the merits of the bill, and not who introduced it," he said.

One House member said Joseph Palacios' resignation as chairman is an "eye opener" among members of the leadership, and may result in another shakeup.

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2011 LibDay booths will use tents instead

By CLARISSA V. DAVID REPORTER

The lumber used to construct the booths for the 2010 Liberation Day celebration will no longer be recycled for this year's festivities as most of them are termite-infested.

"We saved all the materials from last year but the termites are very fast. A lot of them are already termite-infested," Jonas Barcinas, 2011 Liberation Day Committee overall chair, told Saipan Tribune.

Mayor's Office staff salvaged the other lumber that can still be used by cutting out the termiteinfested parts and using the leftovers to build benches or donate them to schools.

Because of this, Barcinas said the booths for this year will be

According to Barcinas, some 12 vendors have already registered for this year's Liberation Day celebration, which will be held from June 17 to July 10 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

"The committee decided that we're going to have ours [Liberation Day festival] right after the Flame Tree festival,"

Barcinas said they considered holding the festival in Koblerville "to move it around" and accommodate more local customers.

"We cannot be stagnant. There's no such thing as tradition or just holding it here in one venue," he said.

Barcinas noted that the main focus of the Liberation Day festival is the local customers since only a few tourists visit the festival grounds.

"Last year, I didn't really see Barcinas said the Saipan much tourists. But still, that's part of our community's job. It's everyone's responsibility within the CNMI to attract and lure the tourists to come and join us," he added.

> Barcinas, who also served as overall committee chair last year, said he will strongly support moving the festival to a different venue if he is reappointed as next year's committee chair.

> "If anybody is opposed to that, I think they should come in and step in and help us with the event by taking charge and finding us a good venue or area where the entire community can be provided with great services and entertainment," he said.



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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANK OF

Civil Action No. 09-0466-CV

RICARDO R DADO and DELIA S. DADO, Defendants.

AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION / JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 12th day of November, 2010, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **7th day** of July, 2011 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

> Tract 21878-3, (part of original Tract 21878, AH 575), as more particularly described Drawing/Cadastral Plat 2035/80, the original of which was registered on August 19, 1980 as Document No. 10610 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- 1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands auction sales with reserve, the Auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in
- conducting the auction sale:
 a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and c) To reject any and all bids.
- <u>Bids.</u> Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
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- Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- 5. <u>Inspection and No Warranty.</u> Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 31st day of May, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

'Lack of commissioners will stop CPUC from functioning'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com

Viola Alepuyo, the chairperson and the only commissioner of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, disclosed yesterday that the regulatory agency will stop doing its work effective tomorrow due to lack of members. Alepuyo said this lack of commissioners could affect the work that its consultant. Georgetown Consulting Inc., is providing to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Alepuyo disclosed that her appointment, which had already been extended for an additional 30 days, expires today, June 7. She said that, according to the commission's legal counsel, Anthony Long, the commission is "unable to rule

or make a decision after the expiration."

Georgetown has a contract with CPUC and is considered a commission staffer. Under the law, its services to CUC must be compensated, provided it is approved by the commission.

"Based on the lawyer's advice, the commission is unable to rule or make a decision after tomorrow and I hesitate to order the commission staff to continue assisting CUC," said Alepuyo, adding that the only time the commission can do business again is if the second commissioner will be onboard soon.

According to CUC legal counsel Debra Fisher and chief financial officer Charles Warren, stopping the service of Georgetown will hamper the work it needs to accomplish for CUC.

"We have a lot of ongoing issues that we need to resolve. We have a large rate case in October for water and wastewater division. We have also a hearing on LEAC rate and other works. So we will encourage the Legislature to meet and vote for the applicant," said

Warren, adding that without Georgetown's assistance, future rate cases will be deemed one-sided because the consultant has not given the opportunity to review the petitions.

Because of the many requirements for the preparations of rate cases, Warren said it is a possibility that CUC may defer some of its works.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed Ignacio Perez from Tinian as CPUC commissioner. However, to date no action has been taken by both House of Representatives and the Senate for his confirmation. The candidate needs both Houses' approval for his appointment. Perez will serve the remaining term of Kimberly King-Hinds whose term expires on Feb. 6, 2012.

KILILI

From Page 1

bill on the immigration status of four specific groups of people, control over submerged lands, and increased food stamp funding, among other things.

Sablan also brought up the issue of re-enrolling CNMI government employees in the U.S. Social Security program.

The delegate accepted Speaker Eli Cabrera's (R-Saipan) invitation to the House chamber to have an open discussion with members during yesterday's session.

He told House members and reporters that after he spoke on the floor of the U.S. Congress on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's continued delay in issuing the worker rule, he was able to personally convey the same message to DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano during a meeting on an entirely different matter.

Just the same, there's no telling when the regulations will be out, barely five months before the Nov. 28 expiration of umbrella permits. On that date, workers may face deportation from the

When Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) asked Sablan whether he sees the need to extend the CNMI-issued umbrella permits, the delegate said the Commonwealth-only worker regulations will be more manageable than CNMI umbrella permits.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial wants an extension of the umbrella permits.

In an interview with reporters later, Sablan also said a hearing on his bill giving permanent residence status to four specific groups of people may be held in the summer, along with the hearing on the implementation of the federalization law or U.S. Public Law 110-229.

Social Security

He said as early as 2009, he brought

up with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial the idea of re-enrolling CNMI government employees into the federal Social Security program but he said he has not received a response from the governor, until Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos recently brought it up

The delegate said the Social Security is willing to help the CNMI in this.

Sablan said when he learned that Inos didn't know about his 2009 letter, the delegate made it a point to give copies of his letters to the governor to the lieutenant governor, the House speaker, and the Senate president.

He said re-enrollment into Social Security "needs the commitment of the CNMI government" either through legislation or a memorandum of agreement.

In 1986, the CNMI government decided to opt out of the Social Security System and instead created the NMI Retirement Fund for their pension sys-

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the Fitial administration has long considered transitioning government employees back to the Social Security system "even before receiving the delegate's letter in 2009 '

"It's an issue that has been and is being considered. However, it's not the piece of cake that some make it out to be," Demapan told Saipan Tribune in

He said the administration most recently discussed this matter with the Retirement Fund officials and Buck Consultants.

"Transitioning active government employees to the SS program will be beneficial to the Fund as well in that it will be able to achieve solvency to sustain the pension program for those who were retired before the implementation of the SS program," he said.

Sablan said going back to the Social Security program will cost the CNMI government in employer contribution, an amount which can be computed by

Mafnas said they will hold another

news briefing today, Tuesday.

the CNMI Department of Finance.

"[This will be] entirely separate from the Retirement Fund. And this one we have to pay on time...because it's what due the employees. It's a program for employees," he added.

Demapan, for his part, said the administration "will work these figures out to determine how best to proceed with transitioning government employees."

"Bottom line is that we want to ensure that the end result will be beneficial to both the employee and the employer. Once everything has been quantified and a transition plan is finalized, then we'll work with the legislature to move it forward," he added.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) said he's planning to introduce a resolution in support of the CNMI government employees' re-enrollment in the Social Security program.

On the issue of food stamp funding which Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) raised, Sablan said the CNMI continues to get much lower amount of food stamp benefits because the CNMI government "has not taken the initiative to submit a proposal" for the Commonwealth to get into the 'full program."

The delegate said an individual in the CNMI gets \$84 a month, while on Guam, that's \$280 a month.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) followed up on funding for the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, and Sablan said the Republicans in Congress put a moratorium on earmarks, which the delegate had offered for NMTI.

Sablan, in responding to Rep. Trenton Conner's (R-Tinian) questions, said he supports relocation of troops from Futenma in Okinawa to Tinian, especially the non-commissioned officers.

Sablan, the CNMI's first nonvoting delegate to the U.S. Congress, said he will be in the CNMI for three weeks, and will also be visiting Rota and Tinian.

POWER

From Page 1

charge will go up from \$5.60 to \$6.62 a month.

Residential customers using between 500 kWh and 1,000 kWh will pay 0.0780 per kWh from the present rate of 0.0660 per kWh.

The base rate goes higher for residential customers using 1,000 kWh to 2,000 kWh, from the existing 0.0860 to 0.1020 per kWh. For consumption above 2,000 kWh, the electric base charge goes up from 0.1270 to 0.1500

For commercial customers using 500 kWh or less, their base rate will go up from \$7.67 to \$9.06 a month. Those using 500 kWh and above, their base rate goes up from 0.0860 to 0.1020 per kWh; while the government's base charge goes up from 0.0910 to 0.1070 per kWh.

These electric base rate increases were at the recommendation of both CUC and the commission's consultant, Georgetown Consulting Group Inc.

Georgetown said the impact of the rate hike on the average residential customer is about a 1.9 percent increase, while commercial and government consumers will bear a 5.1 percent in-

Commission chair Viola Alepuyo said yesterday that as much as she wants to say no to the rate increase, she has no choice in the matter, considering the justification for the rate hike and the best interest of CUC and the larger community

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren and CUC legal counsel Debra Fisher said that CUC badly needs the revenue that will be generated from the base rate hike so that they could do all necessary repairs and maintenance work.

The commission first deferred the base rate hike petition on April 15, 2011, until CUC could resolve its receivables from the CNMI government. It was also then that the commission had approved a 22-percent increase in the LEAC rate, effective April 16.

According to CUC, the two-month delay in the implementation of the new base rate—which was supposed to take effect in April—costs CUC \$634,000 in lost revenue.

CUC officials disclosed yesterday that as of April 28, 2011, the government's unpaid obligation to CUC now amounts to just \$4.644 million, comprising 876 individual accounts. This is already a significant reduction compared to the \$14.4 million the government owed back in December 2010.

the payments made for the accounts of

the Public School System and Northern Marianas College.

Of the \$4.6 million the government still owes, \$3 million represents receivables that are in excess of 45 days. If collected, the base rate component is expected to generate about \$837,000 for CUC.

Rate hike exemption

Warren and Fisher said the electric base rate increase will exempt customers who qualify under the agency's lifeline program. The commission gave CUC until June 15 to create the guidelines for the program.

"We haven't finalized the program yet but we're working on it for our low-income customers," said Fisher, pointing out that only consumers using up to 500 kWh are exempted under the lifeline rate program.

She said that CUC will not place a limit on the number of lifeline members so long as customers qualify for the threshold that will be established.

Changed position

Georgetown had earlier opposed CUC's rate hike petition, describing the increase as unnecessary. CUC then filed a rebuttal and managed to convince the commission's consultant to change its stance after a three-day prehearing conference last month.

Yesterday, Georgetown representatives explained the change in its opinion, saying it is for the interest of moving the process forward for CUC.

CUC's original petition asked for an increase of \$8.8 million in electric base rate revenues so it could meet all stipulated requirements and the repairs and maintenance of its power facilities. Both CUC and Georgetown ended

up reducing the requested amount by \$5 million, agreeing to just a \$3.8 million increase in base rate revenue.

"We believe that [\$3.8 million] is reasonable given CUC's problems and the progress it has made. It's moving forward in the right way and they need the resources to continue," said Georgetown yesterday.

Additionally, Georgetown representatives said CUC is under significant scrutiny from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of the stipulated requirements as well as the agency's efforts in seeking a \$16-million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"The commission must send a strong message to the financial community that revenue requirements will prevail over other considerations. It is for these reasons that CUC and Georgetown recommended continued support of the proposed \$3.8 million [base rate revenue]," said the consultants.

FBI

From Page 1

Additional resources and expertise are coming in, said Mafnas, without elaborating.

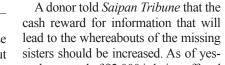
As this developed, two teams of less

than 20 volunteers scoured the villages of Kannat Tabla and Chalan Kiya yesterday but failed to find any trace of the girls.

Mafnas said the partnership between DPS and federal law enforcement agencies continues and so is the investigation effort.

"Our operation will continue here at the Incident Command Center. We are prepared to respond to any new development, provide support, or assist when called upon," he said.

Ruhtik Luhk



terday, a total of \$2,000 is being offered to anyone who could provide information about the location of the Luhk sisters. The donor, who asked not to be identified, has been reg-

ularly donating sodas, betel nuts, and other fruits, to the Incident Command Post at the Kagman Community Center.

He and his two children would also do their own searches by hiking all over the island.

He said Saipan is a multi-cultural island so people of different nationalities and other organizations should also be volunteering and helping in the search.

"This is a big problem. We should stick [together] as a community. This is

If Faloma and Maleina Luhk are found, he said, the government and people should make sure that this will not happen again.

on May 25 at 6am as they were leaving their house in As Teo on their way to a

Faloma and Maleina Luhk have been under the care of their grandparents Elbert and Jane Quitugua for almost three years now. Their mother, Jermain Quitugua, came back to Saipan from Guam on May 26 after learning about

Luhk—is a former police officer and corrections officer on Saipan who is now staying in Pohnpei. He belongs to the 12th CNMI Police Academy Cycle.

our home!" he said.

The girls were reportedly last seen

the incident. The girls' father-Ruhtik Rupaul

Warren said the reduction was due to

Regents oppose bill that seeks to remove NMC's autonomy

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com

The Board of Regents unanimously adopted yesterday a resolution that expresses its

strong opposition to a bill that it to improve financial oversight said "singles out" the Northern Marianas College and would take away its autonomy.

House Bill 17-93, which proposes to amend existing statute over the college, is now on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's desk, awaiting his signature.

The bill, authored by Rep. Stanley Torres, calls for the college to submit a detailed report to the Legislature regularly about its financial records and transactions. The bill was crafted after the Legislature failed to compel the college to furnish it with specific records sometime in 2009.

Based on the legislation, "the college only submits an annual report of accomplishments which for the 2003 fiscal year had just a two-page list of appropriations, and which for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 only provided onepage, pie-chart that had no financial details at all."

Regents chair Juan Lizama said yesterday that even though NMC receives appropriation from the general fund, the college was created as an autonomous agency, governed by its own rules and policies.

"Nobody questions that the college receives funds from the Legislature or the governor [who sign the appropriation]... but the issue here is autonomy of the institution," said Lizama.

Regent Malua Peter also said that she's tired of defending the same old position with lawmakers despite having a series of meetings with them.

"I am really tired of this nonsense. We've been meeting and meeting with the Legislature... but what happened to these meetings?" she told colleagues.

"It only tells us that whenever a representative is disappointed with someone [at NMC] they would come up with a bill to correct it."

She pointed out that the bill's author, Torres, had made it clear that the measure was intended for the previous NMC administration. Torres is a known critic of NMC, especially during the administration of Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Personnel committee chair Andrew Orsini said that "keeping the college's autonomy and free from any interference" was clearly pointed out by the accreditation commission as key to NMC retaining its accreditation. He hopes the resolution would convince the governor to junk the bill as it will further endanger the college's stability.

"This will not stop. In fact, there's another pending legislation about NMC...and whatever triggers all of this, I think we have long ways to go before we can make the 'power that be' understand about the college autonomy," said regent William Torres.

He encouraged the board to conduct regular public forums to clear up misunderstandings and misconception about the institution.

Interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, for her part, said the college is always willing to provide and share financial information with the Legislature. She described the bill as "unnecessary."

Another nabbed in fake job scam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement has arrested another person allegedly involved in a fraudulent scheme to invite Chinese nationals to come to the CNMI as tourists and then work as farmers on Tinian.

ICE agents arrested Honglian Cheng, a female Chinese national, on Friday on two counts of encouraging two aliens to come to the CNMI to unlawfully work while paroled in as tourists.

At a Friday afternoon hearing at the U.S. District Court for the NMI, visiting judge John C. Coughenour directed the appointment of a counsel for Cheng and set her detention hearing for tomorrow, Wednesday, at 10am.

ICE special agent Isra D. Harahap stated in his affidavit that Cheng helped two Chinese nationals—Guoquan Liu and Qiang Zhoutravel to the CNMI in March 2011 on the pretext of being tourists while actually helping them find jobs.

Harahap said that on March 24, 2011, he received information from the Department of Public Safety on Tinian that Liu and Zhou, both males, were on Tinian and had been recruited to work there as farmers.

Harahap said that Tinian DPS reported that Liu and Zhou had complaints about their situation and were planning to fly to Saipan in order to return to China.

The special agent said he interviewed Liu and Zhou after they arrived on Saipan on March 25, 2011, and learned that both had been recruited in China to work as farmers on Saipan. The two each paid their recruiter 60,000 RMB (\$9,000) to come to Saipan.

Liu said that Cheng made him state on the immigration form that he was a tourist and that he was staying on Saipan for just four days in order to avoid any problems entering the island.

When they arrived on Saipan and exited the airport terminal, Liu said Cheng told them they were going to Tinian. After paying Cheng \$60, they immediately flew to Tinian.

While on Tinian, Cheng told Liu that Hequian Ma was going to take care of their room and board on Tinian. Liu said they met Ma and stayed on Tinian at Ma's house for five days.

On March 24, 2011, Liu got into an argument with Ma and told Ma that he was not going to work for her and that he was going back to China.

Liu said that he and Zhou spent the night at the Tinian police station, and then flew to Saipan the next morning in order to fly back to China.

Ma is facing indictment charging her with two counts of alien smuggling and two counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting over the same recruitment scheme involving two other Chinese nationals.

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Man arrested for allegedly nearly strangling his brother

A man was arrested for allegedly causing his brother to almost lose consciousness by locking his legs around his brother's neck at their residence in Koblerville early Sunday morning.

Ronald J. Lizama, 21, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at \$1,500 cash.

Detective Catherine Pangelinan stated in her report that on Sunday at 1:34am, police responded to a call about a disturbing the peace complaint at a residence in Koblerville.

Pangelinan said when a patrol officer arrived, Ramon Lizama was seen kneeling on the ground beside his son, who was lying on the ground after he allegedly almost lost consciousness.

Pangelinan said that, according to the victim, he was sleeping and had heard someone knocking on the front door. The victim checked outside and saw his brother Ronald Lizama arguing with a visitor.

The victim told Ronald Lizama to stop arguing, but his brother instead hit him on the chin with the right palm.

The victim held Ronald Lizama down to the ground to secure him and told the visitor to leave the area.

The victim then freed his brother as their father instructed him.

Ronald Lizama, however, turned around and locked his legs around the victim's neck. At the same time, he grabbed his brother's head and pulled it backward.

The victim waved to his father to help him because he couldn't breath anymore. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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New management promises a more exciting The Flair Bar

clarissa_david@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Flair Bar re-opens with same name but under new management, with a planned relaunch at a future date.

Formerly a franchise bar of South Korea's "Those Who Make Party Co." since 2005, The Flair is now jointly owned by partners Hang Song, Yun Lee, and Sophie Yeom of the Song and Jang Corporation.

Yeom, in an interview, disclosed that they took ownership of the bar located in downtown Garapan only last month.

"The Flair has a very good location in the heart of Garapan and it has great potential once it's revived," she told Saipan Tribune.

Since The Flair has been saddled with a lackluster image owing to nearby bars and disco, Yeom said they plan to spruce up the bar in coming weeks.

"We're planning to change the bar and make it something different, something special. We want to provide tourists and residents a place where they can just hang out or even party," she said.

Their plans, Yeom said, include overhauling the whole bar—from its entryway all the way to the interior by adding two more private rooms where clients can enjoy exclusive parties.

"We want people to know that they can celebrate special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries at The Flair or make any day special and touching for their loved ones," said operations



The staff of The Flair Bar along Beach Road in Garapan: Mark Nuique, Merv Catienza, Darrel Salas, Sunshine Salas, Champ Hwang, and Sonny Claveria. The Flair, which is now under new management, will have a grand opening and launching before the Fourth of July festivities.

manager Walter Yu, whose wife celebrated her natal day at The Flair a little over a week ago.

According to Yeom, they will also revamp their chasers and drink menus to offer an improved selection and reasonably priced nibblers and cocktails.

"We want to make our prices competitive and offer more choices to our customers," she explained

For her part, bar manager Sunshine Salas disclosed that they plan to hold exciting new events to entice more bar enthusiasts to choose The Flair as their go-to bar.

Customers can look forward to Zoo Call Sundays, Reverse Musical Chairs Mondays, Glow in the Dark Tuesdays, Jersey Night Wednesdays, Rock Paper Scissors Thursdays, Sex on the Micro Beach Fridays, and Crazy Hat Saturdays.

Salas said there will also be several local bands that will perform regularly at The Flair in addition to the nightly bartending exhibits.

What's more, they have implemented 'Happy Hour' from 6pm to 8pm featuring \$2 beer bottles and basic cocktails priced at only \$3 per glass.

"People are getting tired of the same thing. Now that we're under new management, we will turn things around, offer new events and activities, and communicate better with customers," she added.

While Yeom is new in the bar business, she noted that she has been residing and doing all

kinds of businesses on Saipan, from real estate and water activity retail store to massage shop and tour agency.

With the help of the management and employees of The Flair whom she retained, Yeom said a new beginning for the bar is highly promising.

"All the workers at The Flair are willing to help out and revive the place," she said. "We're targeting our grand opening and launching right before the July 4 celebration."

Yu said that all these events and activities aim to liven up and give more energy to The Flair.

"It's more exciting when there's something going on and not just music. We want to make The Flair livelier, more entertaining, and a lot edgier," he added.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OES PTSA meeting today

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of OES students that there will be a PTSA meeting today, June 7, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. (PR)

Red Cross membership meeting tomorrow

The NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross will have its general membership meeting tomorrow, June 8, at 5pm. All Red Cross volunteers, donors, or those interested in learning more about the Red Cross are welcome. The meeting will be held at the Chapter office on Airport Road. Elections will be held for board members and an overview of activities will be discussed. Refreshments will be served. (ARC)

Security orientation

The 3S Saipan Security Service will be hosting a security guard orientation for their current staff at the American Memorial Park, Visitor Center Theatre on June 18. It will run three hours from 8am to 11am. Anyone from the community that is interested in becoming a security guard is welcome to attend the orientation. Subjects that will be covered are customer service, report writing, proper communication and other items. 3S is a sister organization of Saipan City Taxi Association. (PR)

Alcohol license renewal now being accepted

The Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is reminding all licensed business establishments that applications for Alcoholic Beverage Control license renewals are now being accepted.

Application forms may be obtained from the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division at the Department of Commerce, Donni Hill Complex, Capitol Hill Road, Pohnpei Street, anytime between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday except austerity Fridays, weekends, and legal holidays.

All licensed businesses in Rota and Tinian may pick up application forms from the Commerce resident department head on Rota and Tinian. Application forms may also be downloaded at www.commerce.gov.mp.

The deadline for filing of renewal applications, including payment of fees, is on June 30. 2011. For more information, call the ABTC Division at 664-3065. (PR)

Air Force training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on June 10, from 8am to 2:30pm.

The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators-are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

Final MHS Class of 1991 reunion meeting on June 10

The Marianas High School Class of 1991 will be having its final meeting for its 20th reunion. Class members will be meeting on June 10, 2011, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion (2nd Pavilion) on Beach Road at 6pm to plan for the reunion. Final collection of the \$22 banquet fee will be done at the meeting. It will also be the final day for payment for T-shirt orders (small-XL: \$9 or XXL \$9.50). (PR)

Registration Opens for Teachers Institute

The NMI Council for the Humanities announces the opening of registration for the 2011 Teachers Institute that will be held in August.

The Institute, which will run from Aug. 1 to 20, 2011, is open to public and private K-12 teachers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Successful completion of the Institute will allow PSS teachers to fulfill the local history requirement of their teaching credentials.

The registration form and an Institute schedule may be obtained from the Humanities Council office in Gualo Rai, from the Human Resources Office at PSS on Capitol Hill, or downloaded from the Council's website at www. nmihumanities.org.

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$100. Registration forms and fees must be submitted no later than 4pm on July 15. Contact Council program officer Merced Ada at 235-4785 for more information. (PR)

Public hearings on Saipan casino bill

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's committees on Judiciary and Government Operation and Ways and Means will be conducting public hearings for House Local Bills 17-44, or the Saipan and Northern Islands Casino Control Act of 2011 at the following locations:

- Wednesday, June 8, Dandan Elementary School, 6pm
- Friday, June 19, Kagman Elementary School, 6pm
- Monday, June 13, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, 6pm

For copies of HLB 17-44 visit www.cnmileg.gov.mp. Submit written comments three days prior to the public hearing. Contact the offices of Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (664-8830; rep. palaciosj@cnmileg.gov.mp) or Rep. Ray M. Yumul (664-8826; rayyumul@saipan.com) for further information. (PR)



NEWS BRIEFING

Acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon Mafnas, third from right, announces that investigators are looking for the school backpacks of missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk during a press conference at the Kagman Community Center on Thursday, June 2. Also in the photo are press secretary Angel Demapan, second from right, and "Operation Hope" officials

Woman pleads not guilty to job scam charges

A woman indicted on charges of engaging in a fraudulent scheme to invite Chinese nationals to come to the CNMI to work at non-existing jobs has pleaded not guilty.

During Friday's hearing in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Hegian Ma, who appeared with counsel, Michael Evangelista,

pleaded not guilty to two counts of alien smuggling, and two counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

Judge John C. Coughenour set a jury trial for Aug. 1, 2011.

Ma was remanded back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal until further orders.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric

O'Malley appeared for the U.S. government at the hearing.

According to the indictment, on Dec. 16, 2010, Ma encouraged couple Weifeng Guo and Yujan Li, both citizens of the People's Republic of China, to come and reside in the CNMI, knowing that their entering would be in violation of law.

Ma allegedly recruited the two in China for non-existent jobs in the CNMI.

The investigation reportedly began on Feb. 3, 2011, when Guo and his wife, Li, went to the ICE office on Saipan and reported that Ma had promised them jobs at a massage shop on Saipan. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Dog tagging kicks off with 73 dog owners registering pets

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa_david@saipantribune.com

A total of 73 dog owners from different precincts registered their pets on the first day of dog tagging for the Dog Control Program of the Saipan Mayor's Office, which began

yesterday at the Carolinian Utt from 9am to 4pm. in Garapan.

As early as 6:30am, program director Ray B. Lizama and staff James Villagomez, Harvey Matagolai, Peter Camacho, Ton Reyes, and John Mendiola were already at the site for the dog licensing and registration held

Arts festival's promo ads feature work of local artists

By CLARISSA V. DAVID REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and the Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee are featuring the artwork of local artists in the promotional materials for the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

Posters and flyers for this year's festival feature Leslie Ware's photograph dubbed "The Red Carpet" as the main background and another photograph from Lorraine Liwiski.

Ware's snapshot—flame trees and fallen flame tree leaveswas the same winning entry in the 2009 Channel 2 Flame Tree Photograph Contest.

According to Ware, he was at the "right place at the right time" when he took the photograph at the Last Command Post in Marpi near the Japan Peace Memorial.

"I happened to be there one early morning after a night of rain showers. The showers had knocked a lot of blossom off the trees but that year was exceptional for the full trees and the sun was just coming up," he said.

Ware, who has lived and photographed on island for 10 years, said part of his daily routine is a morning trip to the Marpi vicinity "to photograph and enjoy the uncluttered beauty of the area."

Ware said living on Saipan is "incredibly inspirational artistically."

"The flame tree season is one of my favorite times of the year and every year is a little different than the previous," he added.

Being an artist himself, Ware hopes for Saipan to have a well located gallery that will display the artwork of local artists to be viewed by residents and tourists alike.

"Venues like the Flame Tree Art Festival allow artists to display their arts and talents while interacting with the public and hopefully become known in the community, while making a few bucks to help support their work and artistic endeavors," said Ware.

Ware's booth at this year's festival will feature his latest photography, photographic prints on metallic paper, and cutting edge metal prints or aluminum.

Visit Ware's website at http:// www.flickr.com/photos/leslie ware/ to see his other photographs.

The 30th Annual Flame Tree Festival will be held from June 9-12 at the American Memorial Park, west of the Bell Tower in Garapan,

The largest cultural event in the Commonwealth and renowned in the region, the Flame Tree Arts Festival promotes and perpetuates the knowledge and skills of gifted local artists by providing an avenue for them to demonstrate and display their exceptional arts and crafts.

This year's theme is "Celebrating 30 years of Uniting Cultures and Traditions."

For more information, call the Arts Council at 322-9982 or 83 or email at ftaf30@yahoo.com.

FOA membership meeting June 7

The Friends of the Arts has had members whose term has ended a great year with four successful shows and a special year-ending concert. To celebrate the close of the season, the FOA is inviting its membership and friends interested in becoming members to a special meeting at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret with entertainment from this season's shows and the always fantastic Magellan Dinner buffet. Come and enjoy songs and scenes from this year's programs.

The FOA will provide the Magellan Dinner buffet to members and their families and supportive advertisers at \$15 per adult and \$8 for children 4-11 years. FOA will subsidize the difference as thanks to its supportive membership.

The meeting will also include the election to replace board

or who have chosen to leave the board. The board has three positions open. Any member interested in helping to guide the FOA in its upcoming seasons may contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com or Marilou Conner at marilouconner@ gmail.com to let FOA know or to get more information.

The cost of the meeting for non-members will be \$20, but those who become a member at the meeting will also receive the subsidized rate for the buffet.

Join FOA on June 7 at PIC's Charley's. The buffet opens at 6:30pm and the entertainment at about 7:15pm or so. Come and enjoy the company of fellow members and reprises of some of the great entertainment FOA brought you this season. (FOA)

Kiyo Aki Suzuki, father-inlaw of Joeten-Kivu Public Library executive director John Oliver Gonzales, was the first to arrive at 7:30am and register his six Maltese poodles: Shiro, Matua, Miki Chan, Chibi Chan, Diego, and Lahi.

In a phone interview, Gonzales said the dog registration was a family event for them as he and Suzuki were joined by his wife and youngest son. He said they paid for the license

"We wanted to be part of history in supporting a program that's long overdue. We wanted to show the people that we support the program that rids our villages of stray dogs and ensure that dog owners take responsibility for their dogs," he told Saipan Tribune.

fees last Friday.

Gonzales said the Dog Control Program is a "win-win program" for both tourists and residents alike.

"Through this program, people will now see that Saipan is tourist and pet-friendly and it's now safe to walk in the streets," he added.

Ken Baer, a resident of Dandan, said he paid the license fees for his mixed breed and boonie dogs Robbie, Kui, and Jake yesterday morning before heading out to the registration site.

"I think the program is a good idea," said Baer. We have to have some way of controlling these pets, particularly in commercial areas."

Edwin Macayanan, who works for Uno Security and lives in Gara- to is Ishizaki's son, Kalel.

pan, brought his dogs, 2-yearold Junjun and 2-month-old Clint, to the Utt after paying the fees at the Supreme Court

"I want to prove that I own these dogs so I want them registered under my name," he said. "Tagging pet dogs on island will also protect the people from the stray ones."

Luke Ishizaki, also of Dandan, was with his son Kalel when he had 7-month-old Suri registered during his off day at work.

According to Ishizaki, he is all for pet control. "There are lots of stray boonie dogs on island. I don't want stray dogs to catch and bite my son when he's running around."

'Good turnout'

Lizama said the program had a good turnout on its first day.

"This is one of the most anticipated programs on island. It's 12 years of waiting and fi-

nally it's taking off," he said in an interview.

Lizama noted, however, that they had to turn down several dog owners since they haven't paid the license fees at any of the three payment locations: CNMI Treasury Office on Capital Hill, Tax and Revenue Office in Dandan, or the Commonwealth Superior Court in Susupe.

"I'm very overwhelmed with the support of the community, the media and especially the

mayor who supported us in getting this program going," he said.

Although all the dogs that were registered yesterday were friendly and tame, Lizama said the program's personnel have the necessary tools such as cages and muzzles to handle hostile dogs.

He also noted that each day of the dog registration, which has a schedule in each village, is a "learning process" for them to improve their process as they go along.

"It's also challenging since we are doing this tagging at the same time we're working on getting the shelter up and running," he added.

Lizama said the fees collected from the dog registration will be used for the construction of the dog shelter in Lower

"We encourage all dog owners to pay the license fees at any of the payment locations before going to the dog tagging sites," he said.

For information call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 or email dogcontrolprogram. mos2011@yahoo.com.



Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program staff James Villagomez, left, takes a photo of 7-month-old dog Suri, owned by Luke Ishizaki, during the first day of dog tagging and registration held yesterday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. Also in pho-

Current Issues group to conduct reunification survey

The NMC Marianas Reunification Survey Group, composed of Current Issues class students from the Northern Marianas College, is inviting the communities of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian to participate in a public opinion survey regarding the reunification of the CNMI and Guam. The dates and venues of the survey will be announced soon.

The survey is being con-

ducted to complement House Bill 17-181, introduced by Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), which would push for the inclusion of the question "Should the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam, reunify in pursuit of a new political status?" on the general election ballot.

Results collected from the survey will be turned over to McPhetres. "A similar move- send him an email at sam0838@ Palacios and his committee ment to discuss reunification is aol.com. (NMC)

to assist in their deliberations. The survey will be non-binding, however, which means that its results will not have any bearing on any prospective law or policy.

"Discussions about reunification between the CNMI and Guam have been circulating for the past 60 years," said Current Issues instructor Sam

starting in Guam."

McPhetres added, "This survey will help people contemplate the pros and cons of reunification and help our team paint a clear picture of what direction the CNMI population wants to pursue.'

For more information, contact McPhetres at 234-5498 ext. 1204, or 233-3339. You can also

Free training on native assets building initiatives

Learn how to increase asset building and financial education in the CNMI. Attend a free training on Thursday and Friday, June 9 - 10, 2011.

The free training is from 9am to 4pm on both days and will be held at the office of the Inetnon Amot yanKutturanNatibu/Mwwischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw at 1213 Capital Hill Rd. on Capital Hill, across from the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency

and next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office.

The Administration for Native Americans and the Office of Community Services Assets for Financial Independence program have partnered to promote asset building in native communities. This pre-application training will include information on applying for funding through a new OCS and ANA initiative that will support comprehensive asset building projects in native communities. The training is free to tribes and Native American, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, and U.S. Pacific Islander non-profit organi-

The Office of Community Services' Assets for Independence program supports innovative asset-building projects that feature Individual Development Accounts, financial education, and related services that enable low-income people

to improve their economic status and become economically self-sufficient. IDA savings placed in an AFI account can be used to build assets in three areas: homeownership, business capitalization, and postsecondary education and training.

You can register online at www.anapacificbasin.org, or email: Keone.nunes@ackco.com or you may come in as a walk-in on Thursday. (PR)

Plans to build electric cars in 3 states stall

electric car company CT&T made a splash in three states when it rolled shiny, tiny vehicles off big rigs and announced with smiling governors that it would hire hundreds of Americans to build them in new factories.

But those plans have stalled in Hawaii, Pennsylvania and South Carolina without anyone hired, any plants constructed or any electric cars assembled.

The South Korean electric car and golf cart manufacturer has apparently abandoned its pledge to the three states—without notice—and deserted its new U.S. markets amid financial difficulties, The Associated Press has learned.

Meanwhile, an American subsidiary, CT&T United, is in the process of separating from Seoul-based CT&T and hopes construction.

HONOLULU (AP)—Korean to take on North American U.S. investors, James Park, vice president of the subsidiary, told the AP in a phone interview Thursday.

He said CT&T United is abandoning plans for facilities in Pennsylvania, but the company still wants to build in Hawaii and South Carolina. Park said the U.S. subsidiary hopes to raise \$250 million to move forward with its plans.

But there have been no signs of any progress, state and business leaders said.

Since the governors of all three states attracted publicity and news coverage for CT&T, the company has gone silent. Its phone lines in Atlanta and Los Angeles have been disconnected, and the website for CT&T United remains under

CT&T had said in May of last ownership and attract more year it intended to build an assembly facility in Hawaii that would employ up to 400 people and produce up to 10,000 vehicles a year. Hawaii hailed the automaker as it has struggled for years to diversify its tourism-dependent economy and shed its image as a difficult place to do business because of high costs, taxes and red tape.

> But, said Maria Tome, renewable energy program manager for the Hawaii Energy Office, "They did their thing and they left, and I haven't heard anything since."

The same is true in Pennsylvania, said Theresa Elliott, a spokeswoman for the state's Department of Community & Economic Development. "There hasn't been any movement on this project since the initial announcement," she said.

Pittsburgh and Philadelphia anticipated two production and distribution centers from CT&T, each hiring 200 workers, following the September 2009 exhibition.

In South Carolina last July, CT&T said it intended to assemble cars in the town of Duncan and create 370 jobs, but that project also has been delayed indefinitely.

The small two-seaters—with models including a hatchback, mini pickup and police parking enforcement vehicle-could reach speeds up to 40 mph for driving on city and neighborhood roads. They would cost between \$8,000 and \$20,000, depend on the model and accessories, with batteries lasting up to 60 miles.

Park insisted that the deals aren't dead, at least for Hawaii and South Carolina.

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 7, 1999

NMC's adult ed ready to receive NAP recipients

The Adult Basic Education of the Northern Marinas College is ready to establish partnership with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation and the Nutritional Assistance Program in the implementation of the welfare to work grant. According to ABE Director Fe Calixterio, both NMHC and NAP are preparing a grant proposal to finance the local welfare to work program. However, Calixterio emphasized that with or without the grant, NMC's adult school is ready to accommodate students who are under the federal welfare program. "The ABE is ready anytime. We don't have to wait for the grant. All they need to do is send us the students," she said.

New interns for NMC

Three interns from the mainland and Hawaii are currently working with the community and marked another year of partnership between the Northern Marianas College and Commonwealth Development Authority in bringing in fresh ideas to the local businesses. Acting Business Development Center Director Eric Plinske said 10 interns are expected to arrive this year through CDA funding. From this group, a pair of interns will each be assigned to Tinian and Rota. Currently, intern Nathan Gray is reviewing the legal policy and procedure of CDA's commercial and agricultural loans. He recently completed his law degree from the University of California at Davis.

June 7, 2000

Funding for retroactive pay eyed

Because the mandatory pay increase for government employees has been neglected long enough, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair is looking at appropriating some funds from FY 2001 budget to settle this obligation. Sen. Edward U. Maratita has asked the Office of Management and Budget to assess financial impact of meeting the retroactive pay increase to hundreds of government employees who have been waiting for their money since 1991. Under Public Law 7-31 enacted nine years ago, all employees who had reached the maximum salary level would have received a 14 percent across-the-board hike-benefits that were granted due to budget surplus experienced by the government at that time.

Scholarships available for high school students

The Public School System yesterday received additional funding for 40 more Robert C. Byrd post secondary scholarships designed for batch 2000 high school graduates who have attained high academic achievements. Public and private school students alike are welcome to compete for the new and continuing scholarships, according to Federal Programs Coordinator Bill Matson. Aspiring students only have eight days left to apply. The 40 scholarships being given away will cover 10 new scholars, 10 high school sophomores, 10 high school juniors, and 10 high school seniors.

June 7, 2001

6 bombs unearthed on Middle Road

Motorists were stopped from taking the 2W Chalan Laulau route yesterday morning while government response units tended to a smoke-emitting bomb that was unearthed at a sewer line work site. Excavation workers found at least six pieces of live ordnance while digging the ground in front of the Li'l Frosty Boy ice cream parlor in Middle Road. A heavy equipment operator, Roger Impelido, was the first to detect fumes coming from under a pile of dug dirt. The Emergency Management Office later confirmed that the smoke was coming from an undetonated World War II live ordnance which may have been in danger of exploding. EMO Deputy Director Mark Pangelinan said precautionary measures had to be observed, citing the lethal weapon's unpredictability.

\$2 million needed for more PCB tests

Assistant Attorney General Murphy Peterson said it is crucial that the Legislature approves the proposed appropriation of \$2 million to carry out additional tests in Tanapag Village. Peterson emphasized in an interview the need for a separate and independent test of villagers to determine the extent of PCB contamination. Further, the counsel noted that other areas believed to be exposed to PCB and capacitors were not included in the random testing conducted by the US Environmental Protection Agency and should be submitted for another round of tests. This includes private land formerly owned by the government, drainage systems and other buildings in Tanapag Village.



THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.



The individuals in March 24's column were identified as, from left, Nicolas M. Deleon Guerrero and Ned Debrum. They were identified by Juan C. Diaz.

Afaisen has beauty and brains



Shayna Afaisen testing the microbicidal effects of Morinda citrifolia (also known as "lada" in Chamorro or "noni" in Hawaiian) as an undergraduate student at UOG

Shayna Jo Afaisan, recently crowned 2011 Miss Universe Guam, is pursuing her master's degree in biology at the University of Guam.

Her advisor, professor Alex

Kerr, says Afaisen is studying the statistical association of unique retinopathies with Guam's endemic lytico-bodig disease for her master's thesis. (PR)

NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Bianca Hope Manglona Mendiola, who graduated from the University of Guam on May 29 erature! "Whereever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your sunshine." Greetings come from Alvin Jr/Sinahi Isu King and your Rota/Guam/Saipan families.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

To our beautiful grandma, Evelyn R. Camacho, we wish you a very happy birthday, good health, warm wishes, and many more years to come. We love you, Grandma! Greetings come from Terence, Victoria, and Veaghani.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Scenes from the final night of Taste of the Marianas

The 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on Saipan ended on May 28, 2011, with a record crowd and winners named in the Chefs' Competition.

The annual event held each Saturday during May Tourism Month is sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.



BK Park, right, for winning the Chefs' Competition.



A happy customer selects the cuisine of Hafadai Beach Hotel from a wide variety of international cuisines offered by 15 vendors at the festival.



Carolinian dancers wow the crowd on the main stage.



A guest judge from Korean travel magazine Travie inquires into a dish during the Chefs' Com-



SAFETY TRAINING

Steven Aguon, MPC-Guam certified instructor, center, is flanked by Maeda Pacific Corp.-Saipan engineers Jojo, Randy, Ricky, and Cleto at a lunch break in the company's first Aid/CPR/AED Workplace Training held on June 3, 2011, at Maeda's office in Lower Base, Saipan.



Maeda's First Aid/CPR/AED for the Workplace seminar at Maeda's office in Lower Base, Saipan, on June 3, 2011. The seminar was participated by Maeda's engineers and workers from Ericco LLC as part of Maeda's safety program.

Steven Aguon, standing center, MPC's certified instructor from Guam, poses with Maeda Pacific Corp.-Saipan employees before the start of



Maeda Pacific Corp.-Saipan employees undergo a six-hour seminar called "First Aid/CPR/AED for the Workplace." All eight participants passed the exam and received their certificates from American Red Cross. The certificates will expire after two years. This course seeks to help participants identify and eliminate potentially hazardous conditions in their environment, recognize emergencies, and make appropriate decisions for first aid care.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

10 TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



Published daily at 2/F JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

US needs sunshine on political donations

resident Barack Obama has proposed bringing needed financial disclosure to all government contractors. He should sign the executive order promptly.

Obama's draft regulation requires companies seeking government contracts to disclose their last two years of political contributions, including donations to 501 (c)-style political action organizations, which currently serve as a conduit for anonymous and unlimited donations by individuals.

There is both bipartisan opposition and support for this order, but politicians who now receive secret election help are hardly the best judges. Thanks to lax disclosure laws, the outfits that spend millions to get the government they want into office (and in turn reap contracts worth many multiples of their donations) do so without public knowledge.

It is precisely because of such opposition that taxpayers have a right to worry that such an order is overdue. Adoption of this requirement gets at fundamental truths of American democracy: The people have a right to know, and the public's business should be done in public.

Opponents argue that disclosure will politicize contracting, putting pressure on bureaucrats to chose contractors donating to their political bosses.

The reality is that disclosure ensures the process becomes less politicized and protects bureaucrats from political pressure. Recipients of political help, whether direct or indirect, always know who is helping them. Too many government contracts have been "pay to play."

When donations are secret from the public, donors can much more easily insist on favors from those they sponsor, resulting in behind-the-scenes congressional and executive pressure on what should be nonpolitical government workers.

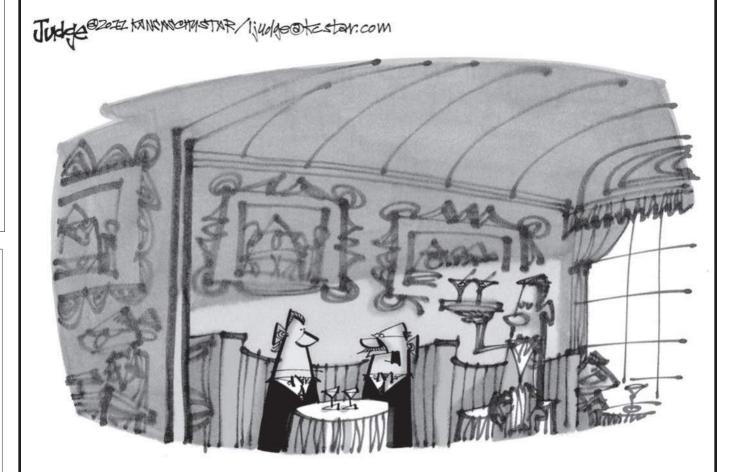
When donations are in the open, handing out taxpayer dollars as thank-you notes carries far more political risk.

The order may be a poor substitute for the more comprehensive Disclose Act that would make public all such political donations, direct and indirect. But the U.S. Senate showed little interest in passing that worthy legislation.

President Obama would be wise to remind Congress that the money being spent belongs to the American people who have a right to know that it isn't being used as payback for political favors. Taxpayer dollars must not be shipped off to the highest bidders.

The president should sign his executive order, bringing needed transparency and renewed pressure to award government contracts based on lowest and best bids. The coffers of elected officials may suffer, but the people will win.

(c) 2011, The Kansas City Star



"So ONGE WE REALIZED MUCH OF SARAH PALIN'S POPULARITY WITH BLUE-COLLAR CONSERVATIVES WAS BASED ON SEX APPEAL, WE WENT WHOLE HOG AND NOW OUR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE IS GOING TO BE CARMEN ELECTRA."

General visits the MHS Aeronautical Dolphins

By JOHN RAULERSON
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUN

Editor's Note: The author is a teacher at Marianas High School and this article relates the visit of Brig. Gen. John Doucette and his family to his class on May 31, 2011.

n May 31 a first happened at Marianas High School: U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. John Doucette arrived on campus with his wife Janette and son Grayson. The purpose of the general's visit was to get to know our aviation class, The Aeronautical Dolphins. When the general arrived, he was greeted by Mr. Garrison and a group of very excited Aeronautical Dolphins. (Mr. Garrison has supported the class since the very beginning. He even let us use his personal vehicle when the van was unavailable.)

After a warm welcome in the parking lot, we promptly escorted the general and his family to Room F101, which is the home of the Aeronautical Dolphins. We were seated in a circle and the general asked each Aeronautical Dolphins what their goal in life was. Some students told the general that they wanted to be pilots, since the general is a proven ace fighter pilot. Other students expressed a desire to become engineers, computer specialists, and nurses.

The general reminded each student about the value of having passion in whatever career path they choose to pursue. He said the Air Force offers a lot of benefits for those who have the passion to serve and he explained how they could get a college degree through the U.S. Air Force. However, one should not join the Air Force strictly for the benefits that are offered, he said. Rather, one should join the Air Force for the passion to excel in his or her chosen career path. That path could be a pilot engineer, computer specialist, nurse, etc. He said that he wanted each of them to have options, even if they decide not to join the Air Force.

The students asked the general about his personal experience flying the F-15C fighter aircraft. The general was very forthcoming when he talked about his first time flying in the F-15C. He told us that, as he set inside his F-15C aircraft on the runway, five stages of afterburner filtered through, which felt like something slapping your back five times. Then the aircraft accelerated very quickly on the runway and before he knew it, he was flying straight up. This was an experience that he would never forget, the general said.

Some students asked the general's wife questions about how it was being the wife of a general. She explained that she has lots of



ONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School teacher John Raulerson shakes hands with Brig. Gen. John Doucette during the general's visit to MHS on May 31, 2011.

duties. She said that she could be considered the mother of Andersen Air Force Base. Furthermore, certain ceremonial activities and functions require her presence, which in essence makes her a vital part of Team Doucette.

Grayson, the general's son, was also asked some questions. The one question that I recalled was how it was being the son of such a famous man. Grayson seem shy, but I could tell that he was proud of his father and mother and they look good as a family unit. Grayson, by the way, is an engineering student at Virginia Polytechnic University.

Finally, the general answered the last question and then he signed our aeronautical dolphin's banner. After signing the banner, he and his family took time to take some pictures with us. I walked the general back to his car and he shook my hand and told me that I had a great class. He then told me that if we ever made it to Andersen Air Force Base, he would give us the red carpet treatment. There will also be a possibility of the students flying on a KC-135 Aircraft. This means

See GENERAL on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions con-

sisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Obama looking like a champ

By ALVARO HUERTA

THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

mericans love winners, and if President Obama scores more victories like the ones he has enjoyed over the last two months, he will easily win re-election.

For the first two years of his term, Obama, to the chagrin of his supporters, mostly remained silent while his opponents maliciously maligned him.

They said he was a Muslim. They said he wasn't born in the United States. They said he didn't write his own books. They said he was a socialist. They said he hated white people.

Obama's nonchalant attitude in the face of these attacks flabbergasted and frustrated his supporters, who wanted him to defend his character and stand up for the progressive policies of the New Deal and the Great Society—policies that his opponents were targeting.

Well, Obama finally did stand up and showed himself to be a tough and decisive leader.

He started to turn things around in his budget speech on April 13,

when he beautifully explained the noble purpose behind our social welfare programs.

"We recognize that no matter how responsibly we live our lives, hard times or bad luck, a crippling illness or a layoff, may strike any one of us," he said. "So we contribute to programs like Medicare and Social Security, which guarantee us health care and a measure of basic income after a lifetime of hard work; unemployment insurance, which protects us against unexpected job loss; and Medicaid, which provides care for millions of seniors in nursing homes, poor children, and those with disabilities. We are a better country because of these commitments. I'll go further—we would not be a great country without those commitments."

And he laid down the gauntlet against Republicans who want to slash Medicare and Medicaid.

"I will not allow Medicare to become a voucher program that leaves seniors at the mercy of the insurance industry, with a shrinking benefit to pay for rising costs," he said. "I will not tell families with children who have disabilities that they have to fend for themselves." Then on May 1, during the Washington Correspondents' Dinner, Obama delivered a knockout blow to Donald Trump, who had been slandering him for weeks. Obama reduced Trump to a punch line on late- night comedy shows.

One day later, Obama, taking a great political risk, successfully sent a team of Navy SEALs to kill Osama bin Laden.

These actions have sent Obama's approval rating up to a comfortable 54 percent in the latest CNN poll.

His popularity helps explain why one prospective Republican presidential candidate after another has been dropping out. Obama looks like a champ.

To be a real champ, Obama now needs to end the tax cuts for the rich, withdraw all troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, and get the DREAM Act passed.

Alvaro Huerta is a visiting scholar at UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I told you so, teachers

I told teachers long ago they would need collective bargaining ability to influence the policies and decisions of education officials. Now the very teacher who was so adamantly against me is in need of the power I once laid at the feet of all teachers but they refused to pick it up. I guess they didn't realize that I was ahead of the times on their representation and a lot of other things in the CNMI, which is why I keep saying, "I told you so." The fact is, many teachers are going to lose their jobs and this fiasco with teachers and Mr. Garrison is something I forewarned teachers about but they didn't listen.

While I have not always agreed with Mr. Garrison, I do know that he is more than qualified, he cares about the school system, and he cares about the welfare of our children, which are my paramount concerns. I also know for a fact that Mr. Garrison is putting MHS on a better course for improvements by raising the expectations at MHS. While the concerns of teachers may have some validity, I'm sure it is more about how he got rid of these teachers than the reason. But teachers have known since I was the Teacher Rep. that expectations have risen and that they must be able to perform at the new level or else, so it is no surprise to see Mr. Garrison raise the bar of expectations at MHS.

In fact, Mr. James Yangetmai was the leader of the ACT group that worked with certain BOE officials to get rid of me, ruining teachers' chances to have real power on the board. So it is not surprising to see Yangetmai reap what he has sown. I find it poetic justice. Even though ACT kept me from accomplishing my goal for teachers I remained professional and left my vengeance up to God; He just delivered in grand style! I say this because I can clearly remember Yangetmai making a promise to me and then Governor Babauta to unite teachers so teachers could get their collective bargaining rights. Instead Yangetmai and BOE officials did everything they could to assassinate my character and kill my attempts to help teachers. The sad part for teachers is that they were successful.

Mr. Yangetmai should have learned a long time ago that PSS is autonomous and taking his complaints to the Legislature is futile. Only the governor can influence education through the teacher representative, who is appointed by the governor, and there hasn't been a teacher rep since I refused to run again because I was tired of trying to help people that didn't want to be helped and I knew the present governor wasn't going to do anything! Now look, teachers don't even have a rep on the board. It should be noted that since my employment with PSS in 1992, Governor Babauta was the only elected official to truly try and help teachers. He is also the reason our school system is autonomous and protected from the Legislature, the governor, and politics. Hopefully, the next governor will take a page from Governor Babauta's playbook when it comes to education.

As for taking a complaint about the school system to the Leg-

islature, it is really a waste of time unless it's about changing the law. What got me was that PSS officials were even smarter by not coming to the public hearing, which would have only given the complaint more credibility and made matters worse. Even though I don't agree with all the methodologies, I can tell the commissioner and principals are doing all they can to improve the quality of education and there will be casualties that might have been avoided to a large extent but there will always be casualties or some form of cost for improvements—philosophically, *nothing is free and everything comes at a cost!*

The only real solution for teachers is to claim your U.S. constitutional right to bargain and forget all the other stuff; it is a waste of time

P.S.: One day I will also be able to tell the Board of Education "I told you so" as teachers still don't have a teacher rep and their rights have even been taken out of the CNMI's Constitution but thank God there are federal laws that still guarantee teachers their rights to "bargain" with the CNMI Public School System. CNMI teachers are the only teachers in America that are not exercising their right to bargain, thanks to Mr. Yangetmai and ACT but you can be assured that one day teachers are going to claim this right, which is why I sing the song *Time is on My Side!* Yes it is, when it comes to proving my point and shutting up the mouths of my critics!

Ambrose M. Bennett

Former BOE teacher representative

Serious explanations needed

It seems that the Mariana High School is undergoing some unusual organizational development that may be caused by systemic problems in human resource policies, processes, and procedures. It is also possible that because MHS is an independent responsibility center of the PSS organizational structure, it is experiencing some normal changes of transformation just like any other public sector entity going about its usual business. If disgruntled teachers complain about what they see as an anomaly in the management style of the principal, then this matter is a human resource management issue and should be best handled by a human resource manager of PSS. So far, from what we learned of the employeemanagement relation at the school, the administrator has complete autonomy over personnel or human resource management issues of the school. Aside from the issue that this arrangement may have taken away the basic responsibility of the PSS personnel officer, the Legislature should expand its probe and examine what is exactly the processes and procedures in PSS' policies and sanctioned legal authority that prompted it to leave unchecked the principal and employee and management relations.

The next step, and just as important as the first premise, it is also imperative that the Legislature require the PSS personnel officer to demonstrate how the "grievance procedure" of the PSS Personnel Rules and Regulations or sanctioned policies dealing with employee

grievances applies to the MHS situation. It is important for the Legislature to determine for itself whether or not present PSS policies governing employee grievances are effective and efficient in resolving the problem at MHS. If and only if the personnel officer makes a case that PSS personnel policies would resolve the issues at MHS, then the Legislature can dissolve its jurisdiction over the matter. Because PSS Personnel Rules and Regulations must adjust to the latent and changing dynamics of local human resources management at the school level, it is necessary for the Legislature to determine when and what was the last attempt by PSS to update and revise its Personnel Rules and Regulation and how it is keeping up with changing educational environment both at the local and national levels.

What the Legislature is facing as it secures the useful evidence it gathered from the MHS hearing should level only on objective and factual information. It should guard itself from cockamamie explanations by those whose responsibility it was to assure all PSS stakeholders that all is well and securely controlled under the umbrella of PSS. It would be interesting if the legislators who are probing the issues at MHS would agree that PSS' Personnel Rules and Regulations is the panacea to the MHS issues, notwithstanding that PSS has not changed its human resource management practices and processes since the regulations were promulgated more than 20 years ago. Nonetheless, some serious explanation

would be required to get to the bottom of all human resource management issues at PSS. We will wait for the legislators to report back to their constituents, or PSS management and the Board of Education should take the first step to clarify and satisfy the curiosity of all interested stakeholders of the public education system in the CNMI about its human resources management processes and policies dealing with its certified and non-certified employees.

Francisco R. Agulto

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Thank you

To the people of Luta, the Ogo family, Luta Little League Association, Luta umpires, Luta resort, Luta mayor's office, Luta municipal council, Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, Tinian delegation, Tinian Little League Association, Tinian Little League parents and coaches, Lt. Gov. Inos, Freedom Air, and Saipan umpires: I want to thank you all for the assistance you have provided us during the 2011 district tournament in Luta. Good luck to the Saipan Little League that is representing the CNMI in the 2011Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament.

Jose P. Kiyoshi

Tinian Little League Association

GENERAL

From Page 10

that they could actually witness air-to-air refueling. The KC-135 is also the aircraft that I crewed when I was in the U.S. Air Force.

Janette and Grayson Doucette left after the general because they

were still talking with some of my students. Of course, we didn't want this experience to end, but the Doucettes were on a tight schedule and they had already surpassed their time limit at MHS.

On Monday, Congressman Kilili Sablan visited the home of the Aeronautical Dolphins. The purpose of this trip was to give aeronautical material needed to enhance the education of our students. We expressed the possibility for future appointments to the Air Force Academy to come from this program. We are justifying this request, under the premise that our program is supported by a U.S. Air Force General who, by the way, is a commander of a large Air Force base, the commander of the 36th Wing, and one of the best darn fighter pilots in the U.S. Air Force.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.

▲88° ▼79°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Fast winds around 10 mph.

▲ 88° ▼79°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 88° ▼ **78°**



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	▲ 88 ▼ 83	
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 82 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77

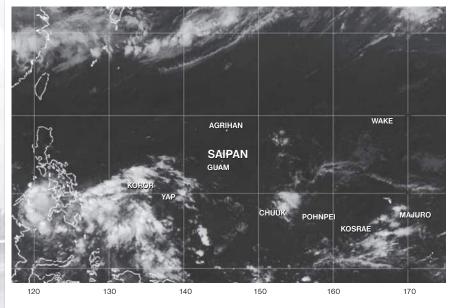
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 62	▼ 56
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 94	₹70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 88	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83	▼ 75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 65	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71	▼ 56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 90	₹78
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 51	▼ 42
Miami	Partly Cloudy	89	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	≜ 85	▼ 70
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 79	▼65
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68	▼ 50
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 75	₹64
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79	▼ 62
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 65	₹49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59	▼ 53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79	▼60
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75	▼ 64

Tides Saipan Harbor 12:06 AM Today High Tide: 2.0 5:57 AM Today Low Tide: 1.1 10:27 AM Today High Tide: 5:41 PM Today Low Tide:

Washington, DC Thundershowers ▲90 ▼71

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from a weak circulation southwest of Koror near 4N130E to just northwest of Yap at 11N137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northwest of Yap within 75 miles of a line from 12N135E to 9N138E and just south of Koror within 100 miles of a line from 5N130E to 6N137E to EQ138E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Guam between 4N and 10N from 144E to 148E. A surface trough just east of Chuuk extends northward from 5N156E to 10N155E. Scattered showers are found within an area bounded by a line from 12N155E to 10N161E to 4N158E to 7N153E back to 12N155E. This area includes Pohnpei. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers from southeast of Kosrae to southwest of Majuro within an area bounded by a line from 7N169E to 3N173E to EQ162E back to 7N169E.

	Sur	Moor		
	Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM	Today
0 Feet	Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM	Wednesday
1 Feet	Thursday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM	Thursday
7 Feet	Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM	Friday
1 Feet	Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM	Saturday

10:25 AM	11:11 PM
11:21 AM	11:54 PM
12:17 PM	
1:14 PM	12:37 AM
2:12 PM	1:21 AM
	10:25 AM 11:21 AM 12:17 PM 1:14 PM

rrise/Moonset

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the following

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ TRÁVELOGUE

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies
- Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- otos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. \blacksquare Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb). ■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),
- the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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the name of contact person, and a phone number. ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

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DE	PAR	TUR	ES		ARF	RIVAL	.S
SAIPAN	-GUAI	M		GUAM-S	AIPA	N	
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	,	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	,	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	,	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	,	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	,	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	,	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	,	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN	-NARI	ITA (NE	RT)	NARITA	(NRT)-SAIP	AN
DL287		8:45am	Daily	DL298	•	3:00pm	Daily
DL297		7:20pm	Daily	DL288		12:35am+1	,
SAIPAN	-RUS/	AN (PU	S)	BUSAN	(PUS)	-SAIPA	۱N
07608		6:50am	1.5	0Z607		2:20am+1	
J2000	J.ZVaiii	0.JUaiii	i, J	02001	7.00piii	L.LVaIII*1	٦, ١
SAIPAN	-SEOL	JL (ICN	l)	SEOUL ((ICN)-	SAIPA	N
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN	-SHAI	NGHAI	(PVG)	SHANGI	HAI (F	VG)-S	AIPAN
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN	-GUAI	NZHOU	(CAN)	GUANZI	HOU (CAN)-S	AIPAN
BU8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN	-MAN	ILA (M	NL)	MANILA	(MNI	L)-SAIP	AN
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7·152m	12·252m±1	via ICN Daily via NRT
C09317/891	1:25am	9:45am	3. 6 via GUM	C0890/9606		8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173		10:15pm	Daily	0Z702/605		1:10am+1	
	0.UUdiii	iiiqci.vi	via NRT	02702/605	,		1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
C09313/933		8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM				via ICN
09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM- Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
•	- F	r	Palau	PR110/C09596	,		
0Z604/703	3:20nm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	.,.,,,,,,,			via GUM
0Z604/715		11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55nm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7
C09599/PR111	,		1, 3, 5, 6, 7		ŕ		via GUM
			via GUM	C0934/9596 C0934/9596	,	7:25am+1 7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM
CAIDAN	_UAN	o von	0		,		
SAIPAN 0Z606/721		11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am		2 ,4 ,6, 7
				02124/603	12.3UdIII	Z.ZUpIII	
)Z606/721		11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	via ICN 2, 4, 6, 7
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM				via ICN
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
0Z604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
	-		via ICN	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7): 5K: FlyGuam: 3II: Sichuan Airlines: MII: China Fastern: C7: China Southern: CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not esponsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA Fr	equency
Guam-Rota FRE 100 Rota-Saipan	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 113 FRE 115 FRE 117	11:40 13:00 14:30	11:50 13:10 14:40	Daily Daily Daily
FRE 100 Guam-Rota	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119 FRE 121	16:00 16:40	16:10 16:50	Daily Daily
FRE 300 Rota-Saipan	17:00 17:50	17:30 18:20	Daily Daily	FRE 123 FRE 125	17:40 18:30	17:50 18:40	Daily Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200 Rota-Guam	9:30 10:20	10:00 10:45	Daily Daily	FRE 102 FRE 104	7:05 7:50	7:15 8:00	Daily Daily
Saipan-Rota			•	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112 FRE 114	11:05 12:00	11:15 12:10	Daily Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101 FRE 103 FRE 105 FRE 107 FRE 109 FRE 111	6:45 7:30 8:00 8:40 9:10 10:45	6:55 7:40 8:10 8:50 9:20 10:55	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily	FRE 118 FRE 120 FRE 122 FRE 124 FRE 126	14:50 16:20 17:00 18:05 18:50	15:00 16:30 17:10 18:15 19:00	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily

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Business

E. coli outbreak blamed on German veggie sprouts

Germany (AP)—The terrifying E. coli outbreak in Europe appears to have been caused by vegetable sprouts grown on an organic farm in Germany, an agriculture official Sunday as the toll climbed to at least 22 dead and more than 2,200 sickened.

Preliminary tests found that bean sprouts and other sprout varieties from the farm in the Uelzen area, between the northern cities of Hamburg and Hannover, could be traced to infections in five German states, Lower Saxony Agriculture Minister Gert Lindemann said.

"There were more and more indications in the last few hours that put the focus on this farm," Lindemann said.

Many restaurants involved in what is now the deadliest known E. coli outbreak in modern history had received deliveries of the sprouts, which are often used in salads, Lindemann spokesman Gert Hahne told The Associated Press.

Definitive test results should be available Monday, Lindemann said.

In recent days, as health officials tried to pinpoint the source of the unusually lethal outbreak, suspicion fell on lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes, perhaps from Spain. Spanish farmers complained that the accusations were having a devastating financial effect.

"First it's the 'evil' Spaniards, and then you hear, very surprised, that it is our neighbor," said Dietrich Benni, who lives near the German farm. "It's a bit scary all of this, especially that place.'

He added: "No more organic food for me for now."

The farm was shut down Sunday and all its produce recalled, including fresh herbs, fruits, flowers and potatoes. Two of its employees were also infected with E. coli, Lindemann said. He said 18 different sprout mixtures from the farm were under suspicion, including sprouts of mung beans, broccoli, peas, chickpeas, garlic lentils and radishes.

As for how the sprouts became contaminated, Lindemann noted that they are grown with steam in barrels at 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit)—an ideal environment for bacteria to multiply.

He said it is possible that the water was contaminated with E. coli or that the sprout seeds purchased in Germany and other countries-contained the germ. He said the farmers had not used any manure, which is commonly spread on organic farms and has been known to cause E. coli outbreaks.

Lindemann urged Germans not to eat sprouts until further notice. He said authorities could not yet rule out other possible sources and warned Germans to continue avoiding tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce for now.

AP journalists went to the farm on Sunday night, but nobody was available to talk.

E. coli in Europe

bacteria is behind an outbreak that has

Countries reporting E. coli cases

All but two cases are either people

in Germany, or people who had

recently traveled to northern

A never-before-seen strain of E. coli

Telephone messages left at the farm's office were also not immediately returned.

The outbreak has been blamed on a highly aggressive, "super-toxic" strain of E. coli, perhaps one that scientists have never seen before.

E. coli can be found in the feces of humans and livestock and can spread to produce through sloppy bathroom habits among

farmworkers and through animal waste in fields and in irrigation water. Organic farms tend to use more manure than other producers do.

Sprouts have been implicated in previous E. coli outbreaks, particularly one in 1996 in Japan, where tainted radish sprouts killed 12 people and reportedly sickened more than 12,000 others.

SWEDEN

GERMANY

17 deaths

NORWAY

DENMARK

it is coming from an organic

CAIRO (AP)—The International Monetary Fund on Sunday agreed to provide Egypt with \$3 billion in financing to help the Arab world's most populous nation ease the blow to its economy sustained by the popular uprising that ousted former President Hosni Mubarak.

The loan announcement comes days after the government unveiled a draft budget that projects the deficit swelling to nearly 11 percent of the nation's gross domestic product, as officials look to boost social services spending to meet persistent demands by a population that complained of gross economic inequity under the former regime.

The 12-month standby arrangement spans fiscal year 2011-2012, which begins in July, and carries a 1.5 percent

annual interest rate—a level which Finance Minister Samir Radwan said fell far below the international borrowing costs Egypt would have had to agree to had it turned to the open market for assistance. The loan, which must still be approved by the IMF's executive board in July, is to be repaid over five years, with the payments due to begin three years and three

Officials said the loan was aimed at supporting Egypt's "home-grown" economic plan of supporting social justice after decades under a regime widely accused of enriching the wealthy in a nation where over 40 percent of the population lived on or below the World Bank's poverty delineation of \$2 per day.

"We very much welcome

current priority programs.

"Support from the internain an earlier e-mailed statement.

Finance Minister Samir Radwan said the government, in the wake of the revolution, was faced with the dilemma of meeting growing demands while keeping the budget deficit

Egypt gets \$3B IMF standby loan

months after its disbursement.

the authorities' plans to foster social justice" through increasing spending on health, education, housing and transportation, Ratna Sahay, the IMF's deputy director for the Middle East and Central Asia, told reporters, listing some of the government's

tional community will greatly facilitate the realization of the authorities' economic objectives and, in this context, the IMF is committed to supporting Egypt and its people through this arrangement," said Sahay

"within reasonable limits."

Drug-resistant

Germany

killed 18 people.

- First time this strain of bacteria has caused outbreak in humans
- May develop into hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), a life-threatening complication

Europe's reaction

- Spanish cucumbers originally blamed; tests showed they were not the culprit; people advised not to eat cucumbers, lettuces, raw tomatoes
- Sale of Spanish produce, not just cucumbers, has halted
- Several countries have banned or removed Spanish produce from shelves
- Russia, largest export market for vegetables, bans all vegetable imports from the European Union

Source: BBC, World Health Organization, AP

Graphic: Melina Yingling

FRANCE

SPAIN

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Cellphone cancer warning falls lightly on US ears

NEW YORK (AP)—News last week that an arm of the World Health Organization said cellphones might raise the risk of brain cancer has been greeted by Americans mostly with a shrug of the shoulder—one that's pinning a cellphone to the ear.

Google searches for "cancer" and "cellphones" spiked this week. And some people vowed to get headsets to shield themselves from radiation. But most seemed to either dismiss the warning as too vague, or reason that if the most useful device in modern life poses a slight health risk, then so be it.

"I was watching the news about it, and I thought, 'I'm already screwed because I've been talking on the phone for seven years,"" said Genevieve Chamorro, a 31-year-old New Yorker who was shopping for a phone.

John Gottani, a manager at a cellphone store in New York, said he's been selling phones for six years and has never heard anyone ask if they cause cancer. The only things customers really care about, Gottani said, are "if it works, and if it texts."

The International Agency for Research on Cancer reviewed dozens of published studies on cellphones and cancer before classifying cellphones as "possibly carcinogenic" on Tuesday. It's a risk category that includes night-shift work, engine exhaust and coffee.

Studies haven't been able to rule out a link between cellphones and cancer. But experts say that if there is a link, it's unlikely to be strong. Cellphones emit weak radio waves, which, under the conventional understanding of physics, can't wreak the same sort of cellular changes that sunlight and radioactiv-

A common tip offered to those who want to reduce their exposure to cellphone radiation is to use a headset. Even wireless Bluetooth headsets reduce radiation exposure. Though they emit radio signals of their own, they're much weaker than cellphone signals.

But there seems to be little rush to get Bluetooth headsets. They've been declining in popularity for at least four years, according to research firm Strategy Analytics. It's also found that most headset owners don't intend to replace the one they have when it wears out.

According to Strategy Analytics analyst Chris Schreiner, the main reason is that when you're wearing a Bluetooth headset, you look like a person who's wearing a Bluetooth headset.

"Style has always been a huge issue in terms of Bluetooth headsets," Schreiner said.

On Twitter this week, the most common posts mentioning "headset" and "cancer" have been repeats of a joke from humor site Someecards.com: "I can't decide between being seen wearing a Bluetooth headset or just getting brain cancer."

Cellphones differ in how much radiation they emit. Proposals in a few states would force cellphone stores to display these radiation ratings.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil hovers above \$100 as traders eye **OPEC, US jobs**

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above \$100 a barrel Monday in Asia as traders eyed this week's OPEC meeting and mulled signs of slowing U.S. economic growth that could undermine crude demand. Benchmark oil for July delivery was down eight cents to \$100.14 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 18 cents to settle at \$100.22 on Friday. In London, Brent crude for July delivery was down 45 cents to \$115.39 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

FBI partner attacked by hackers, passwords taken

LONDON (AP)—Nearly 180 passwords belonging to members of an Atlanta-based FBI partner organization have been stolen and leaked to the Internet, the group confirmed Sunday. The logins belonged to members of the local chapter of InfraGard, a public-private partnership devoted to sharing information about threats to U.S. physical and Internet infrastructure, the chapter's president

told The Associated Press. "Someone did compromise the website," InfraGard Atlanta Members Alliance President Paul Farley said in a brief email exchange. "We do not at this time know how the attack occurred or the method used to reveal the passwords."

Greenhouse gas emissions hitting record highs

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Despite 20 years of effort, greenhouse gas emissions are going up instead of down, hitting record highs as climate negotiators gather to debate a new global warming accord. The new report by the International Energy Agency showing high emissions from fossil fuels is one of several pieces of bad news facing delegates from about 180 countries heading to Bonn, Germany, for two weeks of talks beginning Monday, Another: The tsunami-triggered nuclear disaster in March apparently has sidelined Japan's aggressive policies to combat climate change and prompted countries like Germany to hasten the decommissioning of nuclear power stations which, regardless of other drawbacks, have nearly zero carbon emissions.

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Nation

Disastrous spring costing Mo. billions of dollars

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—First a tornado tore through the St. Louis airport. Then rising waters swamped small towns and flooded miles of fertile farmland along the Mississippi River. Then the nation's deadliest tornado in six decades ripped apart the city of Joplin.

Thirty days of destruction in Missouri. Billions of dollars of damage. And it may not be done, as communities along the Missouri River from St. Joseph to St. Louis brace for a new round of flooding.

JOPLIN, Mo. (AP)—Three more people have died from injuries sustained during a massive tornado two weeks ago in Joplin.

Officials in Joplin said on the city's website Sunday that the three additional people died recently from their injuries, bringing the total number of fatalities from the EF-5 tornado to 141. The city did not identify the three victims.

The city says it plans to host a town hall meeting Monday night at the Taylor Performing Arts Center on the Missouri Southern State University campus. Officials at the meeting are expected to give details on removing debris from the tornado.

The May 22 twister demolished about a third of the southwestern Missouri city.



John Thompson joined a group of volunteers and prisoners loading sandbags onto trailers Friday, June 3, 2011 in Rockport, Mo. as the area prepares for the worst flooding seen on the Missouri River since 1993.

The economic aftershocks of Missouri's spring of disasters may be felt for years, even by many who weren't personally affected by the storms. Insurance premiums are likely to increase for home and vehicle owners. Restaurants and retail shops are likely to see lower sales in southeast Missouri. Utility rates are likely to rise in the southwestern part of the state. And Missouri's budget already out of balance-now

deeper in the hole, which could lead to more cuts to government services and schools.

"It's not just the loss of lives, but this is a horrible economic blow to the state of Missouri," said state House Speaker Steven Tilley, a Republican whose home district is near the Mississippi River.

Missouri may be an extreme example. But it's far from alone in a spring of brutal weather.

Tornadoes have wreaked is tens of millions of dollars havoc from Alabama to Masinundated states from Montana to Louisiana. The recent Joplin tornado and a series of twisters that ravaged the South in late April caused a combined insurance loss of up to \$8 billion, according to preliminary estimates from Eqecat, a firm that analyzes the effect of catastrophes for insurers and government agencies.

sachusetts, while floods have

Even before the recent flooding in the West and upper Midwest, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said about 6.8 million acres had been flooded this year—an area equivalent to the entire state of Massachusetts.

One recent day, highway engineer Richard Wallace drove his four-wheel drive truck down the gravel of Mississippi County Road 310 in southeast Missouri to survey the damage from receding floodwaters. He was forced to stop.

"I'm looking at a section right now that looks like part of the Grand Canyon," said an

gaping crevice in the road. "It's just unreal."

In Mississippi County, where the corps blew open the Birds Point levee to relieve flooding pressure on nearby Cairo, Ill., local officials estimated the water may have caused \$75 million in damage to roads, bridges and public infrastructure. Flooding also wiped out about half of the county's farm acreage—a particularly severe blow for an area that ranks among Missouri's leading wheat and soybean producers and whose economy depends on agriculture. Missouri Farm Bureau President Blake Hurst says 570,000 acres of cropland have been flooded, costing Missouri farmers anywhere from \$150 million to \$400 million.

Less money for farmers also means less money for retailers, restaurant owners and just about everyone else in the region. The flooding is projected to reduce sales revenues by \$93 million in Mississippi County alone—a decline of about 14 percent, said Bruce Domazlicky, director of the Center for Economic and Business Research at Southeast Missouri State University.

"You'll think twice before you buy something for yourself, you'll think twice before you buy a wedding present, you'll think twice before you buy a steak," said Claudia Arington, director of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce.

Arizona forest fire triggers new evacuation orders

GREER, Ariz. (AP)—Authorities ordered more eastern Arizona residents to evacuate their homes Sunday as a 225-squaremile blaze that has grown into the third-largest in state history crept toward more buildings.

The Apache County sheriff's office told an unknown number of people east of the town of Alpine along U.S. Highway 180 to get out as the forest fire crept closer.

Alpine itself has been under mandatory evacuation orders since Thursday night, along with the community of Nutrioso

the scenic high country.

Subdivisions close to the New Mexico border that were ordered emptied Sunday included Escudilla Mountain Estates, Bonita, Dog Patch, and the H-V Ranch east of Highway 180, fire information officer Eric Neitzel said.

People packed up their belongings as smoke covered the mountain vacation towns in a smoky fog, and wind blew smoke from the burning pine forest well into nearby New Mexico and Colorado.

Crews have zero contain-

been burning for a week.

In the vacation town of Greer, which has fewer than 200 yearround residents, many people voluntarily left Saturday. Those who remained, mostly business owners, dealt with haze heavily tinged with smoke. Among them was the owner of the 101year-old Molly Butler Lodge, who was hauling out his most valuable items.

Allan Johnson spent Sunday morning getting antiques, including an 1886 table brought by covered wagon from Utah and a 1928 Oldsmobile the

the fire's path. He said he was not taking reservations but was keeping the restaurant open, mainly as a meeting place.

Greer is within miles of the fire, which officials expect will grow given a windy forecast and expected dry lightning Sunday and Monday. If the blaze comes within two miles of a containment line nearby, the town will be evacuated.

'We're all waiting for the word," Johnson said. "It could be 24 hours, could be eight hours. It might not happen at all—that's what we're all root-

directed at the city's police department. Some of the victims' families allege the police never bothered to look for their loved ones because they were addicted to drugs and lived in a dangerous part of town, near Sowell's home. All of the victims were black. Most were strangled with household objects and had traces of drugs in their systems.

Residents of Mount Pleascomplaints went unheeded.

ACROSS THE NATION **Abortion showdown** could cost Indiana

\$4.3 billion

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A looming showdown over Indiana's new law that cuts funding for the Planned Parenthood organization may test how far Republican-led states are willing to go in pressing their tough new anti-abortion agendas. The stakes are high. The future of health care for more than 1 million poor and elderly Indiana residents hangs in the balance. Indiana became the first state this year to cut off all government funds to Planned Parenthood, fulfilling conservatives' goal of financially weakening organizations that provide abortions. Other conservative states have considered such action in recent years but backed away under the threat of loss of all federal money for their Medicaid programs.

Once barred from prom, Conn. student gets to go

SHELTON, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut teen who was briefly barred from prom for his over-the-top invitation to

his date finally got to go. Shelton High School senior James Tate attended the prom Saturday, nearly a month after he was prohibited for posting his invitation to Sonali Rodrigues in 12-inch-high cardboard letters on the school wall. School officials had said his invitation was a safety risk and suspended him for a day and barred him from the prom. Headmaster Beth Smith later reversed the decision, acknowledging the international attention the case received.

Ill. tour bus crash leaves 20 with minor injuries

CHICAGO (AP)—Authorities are investigating a Chicago accident involving a tour bus that left 20 people with minor injuries. Authorities say the accident Sunday evening on Chicago's Dan Ryan Expressway involved a tour bus and two other vehicles. Fire Media Affairs Chief Kevin MacGregor said paramedics took 20 people to local hospitals. He said an additional 31 people on the bus refused treatment. Eight people were in good condition and 12 were in fair condition.

Trial opens for Cleveland man accused in 11 deaths

CLEVELAND bodies were removed many months ago, but the stench of them still clings to the boardedup house on Imperial Avenue.

The smell surfaces every so often: a reminder of the horrors that unfolded here in November 2009, when police began pulling the remains of 11 women from the depths of this rundown white duplex on an impoverished Cleveland street.

"Every once in a while you can hear people saying ... 'What's that smell?," says

(AP)—The Tracy Chapman, who lives across the street.

The murder trial gets under way Monday for Anthony Sowell, 51, a convicted sex offender and ex-Marine charged with killing the women and hiding their remains in his home and backyard. The trial, expected to last several weeks, will force Cleveland residents to revisit a dark chapter in the city's history that most would rather forget. Prosecutors say Sowell, who has pleaded not guilty, lured women from the neighborhood into his home with the promise of alcohol or drugs, then killed them.

In a surprise secret meeting Friday, prospective jurors were introduced to Sowell behind closed doors while reporters covering the case waited on another floor for trial credentials. Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Dick Ambrose had previously said jury selection would begin Monday in his courtroom.

The discovery of the bodies ignited an uproar that has yet to subside, with most of the anger

ant, Sowell's neighborhood, had complained about a rotting smell for months, but they say their

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Asia

Gates says US support troops should go home first

Officials: US missiles kill 12 in NW Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—U.S. missiles struck two targets in a Pakistani tribal region along the border with Afghanistan early Monday, killing 12 suspected insurgents just days after one such strike is thought to have killed a top al-Qaida commander.

Also Monday, the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for a bomb that killed 18 people at a bakery in an army neighborhood in the northwest town of Nowshera the previous night. The militant group said the attack was vengeance for Pakistani army actions against them in the nearby Swat Valley.

Since the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden on May 2 in the Pakistani garrison town of Abbottabad, both militant attacks and missile strikes have increased in the country. More than 150 people have died in suicide and other bombings alone, as militants have vowed to avenge the al-Qaida chief.

The U.S. raid also angered Pakistani leaders, who said it was a violation of their sovereignty and who say they did not know bin Laden was inside their borders.

Since the raid, Pakistani lawmakers have demanded that the U.S. stop its drone-fired missile strikes, but Washington, which rarely even acknowledges the CIA-run program, has not listened. Privately, the Pakistani security establishment is known to have aided in some of the strikes in the past.

The latest strikes occurred in South Waziristan tribal region, a major haven for al-Qaida and Taliban fighters.

One set of missiles hit a compound in Wucha Dana village, killing seven alleged militants. The second set landed around the same time at a Muslim seminary in the same village, killing five suspected insurgents, two Pakistani intelligence said.

The intelligence officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record.

They said several Arab men were believed to be among the

Pakistani authorities said Sunday that they were increasingly sure that a Friday missile strike in South Waziristan killed Ilyas Kashmiri, a top al-Oaida commander rumored to be a longshot contender to replace bin Laden as the terror network's chief.

BASE WALTON, Afghanistan (AP)—A soon-to-begin U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan should leave combat power intact as long as possible to press

an anti-Taliban offensive. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Sunday. He said support troops should go first.

On his final trip to assess a war in its 10th year, Gates told soldiers the endgame in Afghanistan is more likely to turn out well if the drawdown promised by President Barack Obama begins with an emphasis on removing noncombat forces rather than the infantry and others still trying to cement recent gains against a resilient Taliban.

"If it were up to me, I would leave the shooters for last," he

The final decision is Obama's. The commander in chief soon will receive from Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, a range of options on how to begin the withdrawal in July and how to pace it over perhaps 18 month to 24 months, Gates said at this dusty logistics base in Kandahar province.

Obama planned to gather his national security team Monday for his monthly meeting on Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Military commanders typically want to keep as much firepower at their disposal as they can, for as long as they can, to achieve their mission. In the case of Afghanistan, the White House wants to ensure that the



In this photo provided by ISAF Regional Command (South), U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates walks with a group of service members at Forward Operating Base Walton, Sunday, June 5, 2011, in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

president's oft-repeated promise to begin a withdrawal in July yields more than a token gesture. The war has grown increasingly unpopular in Congress.

Gates met with Petraeus shortly after he arrived in Kabul on Saturday. Both men will soon end their tenures. Gates retires on June 30. Petraeus has been nominated to be the next CIA director, replacing Leon Panetta, whom Obama has chosen to succeed Gates at the Pentagon.

Gates said the main purpose of his visit was to deliver his personal thanks to troops. At each encounter Sunday, as he mentioned his gratitude for their efforts and the sacrifices of their families, he choked up.

"You all will be in my thoughts

and prayers every day for the rest of my life," he said in a shaky voice to a group of several hundred soldiers at Marines at Camp Dwyer, an outpost on a bleak patch of Helmand province.

Gates said Obama's Cabinet has yet to begin a formal discussion of how to proceed with the planned troop withdrawal.

It has not even been decided, he said, whether Obama will announce only the number of troops to go home in July or whether he also will set a departure timeline, over a longer period, for all 30,000 of the extra troops that he sent to Afghanistan in 2010.

Those 30,000, an increase opposed by many in Obama's own party, raised the total number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan to

100,000 and deepened the political stakes for him in advance of the 2012 election.

Gates left no doubt that he prefers the president set the full timeline for sending home all 30,000 troops. That would lessen the possibility that allies and the Afghans would interpret the initial July move as an abandonment of the war, Gates said.

"To make a decision on July in complete isolation from anything else has no strategic meaning," Gates said from inside a steamy hut on Dwyer that offered modest relief from a searing afternoon sun.

He said it would make sense to begin reductions with support forces like those who constructed the buildings for the influx of new U.S. troops last year, particularly at Dwyer and other places in the south.

"I'd try to maximize my combat capability as long as this process goes on," he said, referring to removal of the extra 30,000 "surge" forces.

"That's a no-brainer."

It is likely, however, that the forces going home this summer and beyond will be a mix of combat and support troops, he said.

Gates said it would be a mistake to assume that Osama bin Laden's death last month has changed the war's outlook so much that speedier troop reductions are merited.

His view appeared to be seconded by Lt. Col. Clay Padgett, commander of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, whose troops operate in the Kandahar City area, known as the birthplace of the Taliban movement.

Among Afghans in that area, the al-Qaida leader's death was "just noted," and little more, he said. Padgett's brigade commander, Col. Jeffrey Martindale, cited his soldiers' progress against the Taliban in Kandahar province over the past year.

"They're weak," he said.

But they are trying to stage a comeback in some areas where they once dominated.

Marine Maj. Gen. John A. Toolan, Jr., commander of all U.S. and NATO forces in southwest Afghanistan, told reporters that a few Taliban commanders have slipped back into Sangin, a city in Helmand largely cleared of Taliban over the past year.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bombings kill 24 in northwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A suicide bomber attacked a bakery in Pakistan's northwest on Sunday, killing 18 people, and another bomb in the volatile region left six others dead. The attacks were the latest in a wave of bloodshed to hit Pakistan since the U.S. raid that killed al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden. Also Sunday, a Pakistani security official said authorities are nearly certain that a recent U.S. missile strike killed al-Qaida commander Ilyas Kashmiri. The suicide bomber struck the bakery in a neighborhood were army personnel live in the town of Nowshera, police said. At least two soldiers were among

Indian yoga guru defiant after eviction from Delhi

NEW DELHI (AP)—A yoga guru leading tens of thousands in protesting corruption in India says he will continue his hunger strike in his northern state of Uttarakhand after be-

ing ousted from the capital. Baba Ramdev and tens of thousands of supporters began fasting Saturday in a massive tent camp set up in New Delhi. Police say they were forced to use tear gas to break up the camp Sunday after more than 40,000 people showed up for an event that had permission for only 5,000. Rock throwing and an ensuing stampede left dozens of demonstrators and officers injured.

Aftershock rocks quake-hit NZ city of Christchurch

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—An aftershock has rattled buildings in the earthquake-ravaged city of Christchurch, New Zealand. No serious damage or injuries have been reported. The U.S. Geological Survey says the 5.5-magnitude quake struck Monday 14 miles (22 kilometers) west of Christchurch at a depth of just under 2 miles (3 kilometers). Christchurch has been rocked by scores of aftershocks since a devastating

earthquake struck the city in February, killing 181 people. The February quake was New Zealand's most expensive natural disaster, costing an estimated \$15 billion.

Anti-government strike hits Bangladesh's capital

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)— Schools and shops were closed and traffic was disrupted in Bangladesh's capital on Sunday as thousands of security personnel fanned out across the city during a daylong anti-government strike. Opposition groups called for the dawn-to-dusk general strike to protest government moves to amend the constitution. The government wants to repeal a provision that requires it to hand over power at the end of its term to a nonpartisan caretaker administration to oversee elections. "We are ready to discuss the issue with the opposition in Parliament," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told a government meeting in Dhaka on Sunday. "Strikes and violence are not the solution."

No hero's burial for ex-PH dictator

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The Philippine vice president has recommended that former dictator Ferdinand Marcos should not be buried at Manila's heroes' cemetery but that President Jejomar Binay four

full military honors could be accorded if he is laid to rest in his northern political stronghold instead, officials said Sunday.

Marcos was ousted in a 1986 "neonle power" revolt led by current President Be- Marcos nigno Aquino III's

late mother, Corazon Aquino. Marcos died three years later in exile in Hawaii and his body was returned in 1993 to his northern Philippine hometown of Batac in Ilocos Norte province, where it has been displayed in a glass coffin and has become a tourist attraction.

His flamboyant widow, Imelda, has long pushed for the burial of her husband in the National Heroes' cemetery in the Philippine capital, but has been opposed by pro-democracy and left-wing groups, which have

accused the late dictator of plundering the nation's coffers and of massive human rights violations during his two-decade rule. President Aquino asked Vice

months ago to study Marcos' burial and recommend how the long-divisive issue could finally be settled. Aquino has refused to decide alone on the issue, saving he would naturally be biased.

In a report to Aquino, Binay rec-

ommended that Marcos be given full military honors if his family decides to have him laid to rest in Ilocos Norte instead of in the heroes' cemetery, three officials told The Associated Press.

The officials, who have seen the report, spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss the issue before Aquino announces his decision on Binay's recommendation.

Marcos' family has not commented on whether Binay's view is acceptable to them.



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World

Exit of wounded Yemeni leader sets off celebration

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—The departure of Yemen's battle-wounded president for treatment in Saudi Arabia set off wild street celebrations Sunday in the capital, where crowds danced, sang and slaughtered cows in hopes that this spelled a victorious end to a more than three-month campaign to push their leader from power.

Behind the festive atmosphere, many feared Ali Abdullah Saleh, a masterful political survivor who has held power for nearly 33 years, will yet return—or leave the country in ruins if he can't. Hanging in the balance was a country that even before the latest tumult was beset by deep poverty, malnutrition, tribal conflict and violence by an active al-Qaida franchise with international reach.

Saleh, who was taken overnight to a military hospital in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, underwent successful surgery on his chest to remove jagged pieces of wood that splintered from a mosque pulpit when his compound was hit by rockets on Friday, said medical officials and a Yemeni diplomat. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they did not have permission to release the information.

The stunning rocket attack, which the government first blamed on tribal fighters who in recent weeks turned against the president and later on al-Qaida, killed 11 bodyguards and seriously injured five senior officials worshipping just alongside Saleh.

While Saleh is away, Vice President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi is acting as temporary head of state, said the deputy information minister, Abdu al-Janadi. The minister said the president would return to assume his duties after his treatment, though experts on Yemeni affairs questioned whether a return is possible in the face



An anti-government protestor, his face painted with the colours of his national flag, shouts slogans while celebrating with others following President Ali Abdullah Saleh's departure to Saudi Arabia, in Sanaa, Yemen, Sunday, June 5, 2011.

of so much opposition.

"Saleh will come back. Saleh is in good health, and he may give up the authority one day but it has to be in a constitutional way," al-Janadi said. "Calm has returned. Coups have failed. ... We are not in Libya, and Saleh is not calling for civil war."

His sudden departure raised many questions, including whether his Saudi hosts want him to return. The Saudis have backed Saleh and cooperated in confronting al-Qaida and other threats, but they are now among those pressing him to give up power as part of a negotiated deal. Saudi Arabia has watched with concern the anti-government protests that have spread to other neighboring countries like Bahrain and is eager to contain the unrest on its doorstep.

An opposition party official said Sunday that international mediators, including the United States and Saudi Arabia, tried to get Saleh to sign a presidential decree passing power to his vice president before he left for Saudi Arabia—a strong indication that they are trying to push Saleh from power permanently.

Saleh refused to sign the declaration, offering only a verbal agreement, but the negotiations delayed his departure, the official said.

A foreign diplomat involved in Saleh's trip confirmed the story. Both spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss private talks.

The president's absence raised the specter of an even more violent power struggle between the armed tribesmen who have joined the opposition and loyalist military forces under the command of Saleh's son and other close relatives. Street battles between the sides have already pushed the political crisis to the brink of civil war.

In an attempt to cool the situ-

ation, the vice president offered through mediators to pull government forces back from the neighborhood of the capital where they've battled fighters loyal to Sheik Sadeq al-Ahmar, who heads Yemen's most powerful tribal confederation, the Hashid.

Al-Ahmar said in a statement he agreed to the deal, which requires his forces to leave the streets and government ministries they seized starting Monday.

Late Sunday, opposition members and ruling party officials said negotiations have begun based on a U.S.-backed Gulf Arab plan to end the crisis with Saleh's resignation. Saleh rejected that plan three times after agreeing to sign it. His departure could allow Yemen's powerful Gulf neighbors to push it forward. Details of how this would proceed remained unclear.

The two sides said Saleh was expected to remain in Saudi Arabia for two weeks, one for

Opposition Interior leader Sadeo al-Ahmar's compound Site of main protest camp Cairo St. SANAA University Pro-government camp Ring Rd. Zubayri St. Al-Quds St **Latest developments** 45 Meters Rd. · Fighting between forces loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his opponents Presidential palace · At least 155 killed in the last 10 days: more than 370 since protests began in January · Two shells hit the presidential palace wounding Saleh © 2011 MCT

State TV

Hassaba

District

treatment and another for meetings, but it remained unclear if he will return to Yemen,

YEMEN

Arabian Sea

SOMALIA

Sanaa

All spoke on condition of anonymity because negotiations

were ongoing.

In the streets of the capital, Sanaa, joyful crowds celebrated what they hoped would be Saleh's permanent exit.

Republican Guard base

Rd.

WORLD BRIEFS

Leftist Humala declares victory in Peru election

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Leftist military man Ollanta Humala has declared victory in Peru's tightly contests presidential runoff, with unofficial results pointing to him scoring a narrow win. The results announced by the Transparencia election watchdog group give Humala 51.5 percent against 48.5 percent for Keiko Fujimori. She is the daughter of Peru's disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori. Humala proclaimed victory more than seven hours after polls closed Sunday with official results incomplete but showing him winning.

Israeli troops battle protesters in Syria, 20 dead

MAJDAL SHAMS, Golan Heights (AP)—Israeli troops on Sunday battled hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters who tried to burst across Syria's frontier with the Golan Heights, killing a reported 20 people and wounding scores more in the second outbreak of deadly violence in the border area in less than a month. The clashes, marking the an-

niversary of the Arab defeat in the 1967 Mideast war, drew Israeli accusations that Syria was orchestrating the violence to shift attention away from a bloody crackdown on opposition protests at home. The marchers, who had organized on Facebook, passed by Syrian and U.N. outposts on their way to the front lines.

UN chief virtually certain to get second term

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—

The worst kept secret at the

United Nations is that Ban Ki-moon wants a second term as secretary-general and will almost certainly get it, possibly this month. As he travels the world, working behind the scenes and publicly to help defuse crises and push for action on issues like climate change and women's rights, Ban has also been quietly lobbying for support from the 192 U.N. member states for a second five-year term. Egypt's U.N. Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz, whose country heads the 120-member Nonaligned Movement of mainly devel-

oping countries and China,

said last month that he knew

of no opposition to Ban.

Ex-IMF chief due to answer charges in NYC sex case

Strauss-Kahn

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors have said their evidence against the former International Monetary Fund leader charged with sexually assaulting a Manhattan hotel maid was growing by the day. Defense lawyers, meanwhile, have said they had information that would seriously hurt her credibility.

Both sides have been mum about exactly what they mean, and it's unclear whether either will shed more light on the case as Dominique Strauss-Kahn goes to court Monday to answer the charges. The French economist and diplomat, who has said he's innocent, is expected to enter a formal not guilty plea.

It will be Strauss-Kahn's first court appearance since he was released on a total of \$6 million in cash bail and bond last month after nearly a week behind bars.

He has since been under house arrest and armed guard, first in a Manhattan apartment and now in a deluxe town house that rents for \$50,000 a month.

The case has been intensely followed around the world, spawning news reports even about food deliveries to his home. His arrest rocked politics in France, where Strauss-Kahn had

Strauss-Kahn had been considered a potential contender in next year's presidential elections, and shook up the IMF. He resigned his post at the powerful lending body after his arrest, and the powerful lending organization has yet to name his replacement.

The 32-year-old maid told police Strauss-Kahn chased her down in his Sofitel hotel suite

May 14, tried to pull down her pantyhose and forced her to perform oral sex.

"The proof against him is substantial. It is continuing to grow every day," Manhattan assistant district attorney John "Artie" McConnell said in court May 19.

Days later, tests found Strauss-Kahn's DNA matched mate-

rial on the woman's uniform shirt, according to people familiar with the investigation.

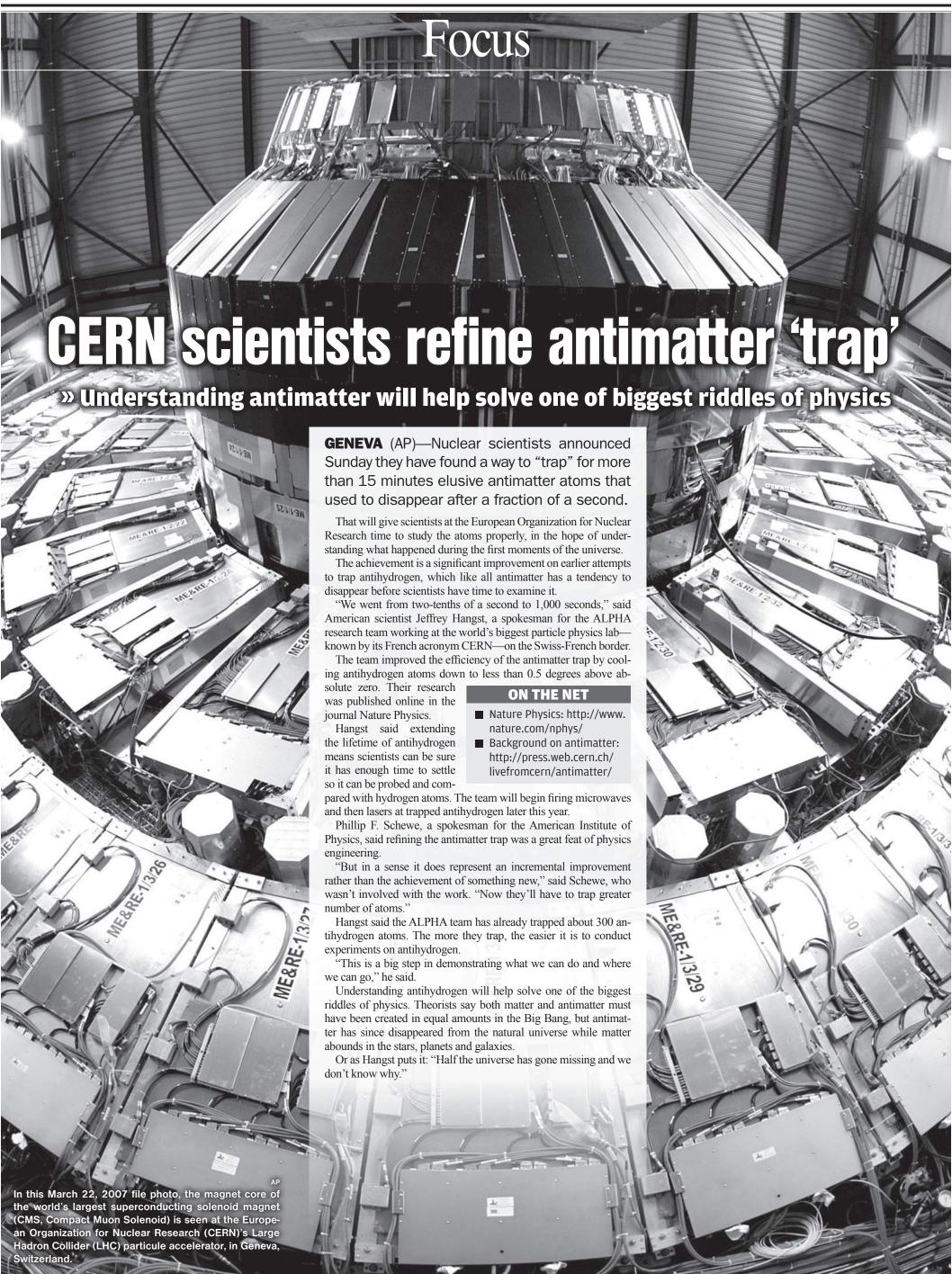
But Strauss-Kahn lawyer Benjamin Brafman told a judge May 16 that the defense believed any forensic evidence "will not be consistent with a forcible encounter"—a remark that could signal his lawyers are planning to argue the episode was consensual. They have declined to comment on their plans.

And in a letter to prosecutors last month, Brafman and fellow Strauss-Kahn lawyer William W. Taylor said they had—but wouldn't yet release—information that "would seriously undermine the quality of this prosecution and also gravely undermine the credibility of the complainant in this case."

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly has said investigators found her credible. And one of her lawyers, Jeffrey Shapiro, has said there is "no way that any aspect of this event could be construed consensual."

A trial in the case is likely months away, if not longer. If convicted of the most serious charge, Strauss-Kahn could face at least five and up to 25 years in prison.

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Overdrive

2011 Lexus CT 200h lacks luxurious feel

By STEVEN COLE SMITH THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

After having only one model of the Toyota Prius since it was introduced as a 2001 model, the company is finally making use of the Prius hybrid platform for other models.

Late this summer, we'll get the larger Prius V, followed by the Prius C, a smaller, sportier entry-level hybrid entry. In early 2012, we should get the Prius plug-in model, which boosts battery capacity.

Available right now, though, is the 2011 Lexus CT 200h, which shares plenty of bits and pieces with the Prius. The CT 200h is a four-door hatchback, resembling a larger Mazda3—it doesn't look like the Prius, or even a Toyota, or for that matter, a Lexus. That isn't a criticism—the CT 200h is a handsome, European-looking car that is reasonably roomy on the inside, but still has a sporting demeanor.

It also doesn't feel like a Prius, which is definitely a compliment. As much as I respect the Prius' technology and stellar fuel mileage, I've never much enjoyed driving one. The Lexus CT 200h is no Mazda Miata, but it is kind of fun to drive, especially when you select the "sport" mode, which the Lexus



Price as tested: \$35,694 EPA rating: 43 miles per gallon city driving, 40 mpg highway Engine: 1.8-liter, four-cylinder gasoline engine with an electric drive motor for 134 total horsepower. Transmission: Continuously variable automatic.

Base price: \$29,120

Length: 170.1 Inches Wheelbase: 102.4 inches **In a nutshell:** Handsome, easy on gas, more fun to drive than a Toyota Prius, but is it really a Lexus?

manual says to use "when high levels of response and feeling are desirable." The levels aren't that high, but it does at least remind you of another semisporty hybrid, the Honda CR-Z.

The Lexus CT 200h is no Mazda Miata, but it is kind of fun to drive, especially when you select the "sport" mode, which the Lexus manual says to use "when high levels of response and feeling are desirable."

While the CT 200h does share a lot with the Prius, there are differences. The Prius is more than five inches longer, and the wheelbase is four inches longer. As you would suspect, the Prius is roomier inside, but the Lexus will swallow up four adults—five in a pinch—and 14.3 cubic feet of luggage. The Lexus' interior is nicer, and even the base model has plenty of features.

Still, if you get the base model CT 200h, which starts at \$29,120, that's it. To get any additional features, you have to upgrade to the Premium model, which is \$1,780 more. To that you can add one of four separate packages of options, ranging in price from an extra \$723, to \$5,598, if you simply must have illuminated door sills and remote starting. Check every box on the order sheet, and the CT, with shipping, lists for \$40,641.

Even so, this is easily the cheapest Lexus, as the IS 250 starts at \$32,645. Is the Lexus CT 200h really a Lexus, then? It also most seems like it may have been a more appropriate flagship for the Scion line, rather than the entrylevel model for Toyota's luxury brand.

Our test CT was a Premium model, with enough options to bring the list price to \$35,694. As on so many hybrids, the manufacturer felt compelled to tweak the instruments and controls to mimic a video game-there's an odd, annoying little transmission shift lever on the dashboard, and the navigation system is accessed by a mouse-like device that requires thumb-clicks to spell out a destination. Yes, it all works, but it's unnecessarily precious.

Besides the aforementioned "sport" mode for driving, there is a "normal" mode for everyday travel, and an "eco" mode that maximizes fuel savings, at the expense of some performance. There is also an "EV drive" setting that allows you to drive at low speeds, for very short distances, on electric power only. It's good for sneaking into the garage if you return home past curfew, but not much else.

The EPA rates the CT at 43 mpg city. 40 highway and 42 combined, though I fell a few mpg short of that in my tests. Mileage isn't as good as a Prius, but the Lexus has other attributes—not the least of which is the Lexus nameplate which make up for the mileage.

One final note: The CT 200h is built in Japan, and while Toyota is working hard to restore its facilities there, few would be surprised if the CT 200h is in short supply through the summer.

From every 500 to every 5,000 miles, oil-change routine varies

By STEVEN COLE SMITH

THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: I have a 2003 Ford F-350 diesel pickup that I keep in storage. I try to run it every two weeks, but question how often I should change oil in a vehicle that goes less than 500 miles a year. I have been changing the oil once a year, even though the oil comes out perfectly clear and moisture-free. I know Ford recommends changing oil on the diesel by the number of hours, but being as I put almost no hours on this vehicle, I feel like I am discarding perfectly good oil. Am I?—Harry Booth

ANSWER: Once a year seems about

right, especially if you are letting the engine heat up enough to reach regular operating temperatures when you crank it up every two week. You need the heat to dissipate any condensation that gathers inside the engine. I'd be more worried about corrosion in the brake fluid, degradation of the transmission fluid and any rubber seals, and making sure you have reasonably fresh antifreeze in the radiator. Vehicles are built to drive, not to sit, and you can damage them as much by storing them as by driving them.

Q: I change my oil and filter every 3,000 miles, and people are telling me that's way too often. The cars are a 2002 Mazda Millennia S and a 1989

Honda Civic. I use Castrol GTX nonsynthetic oil. Do you think that's too often?-Alan Fasel

A: Is it too often? No. Is it more often than you have too? Yes. Every 5,000 miles is plenty. But if I'm looking for a used car, and I know you've been changing oil on your Mazda and Honda every 3,000 miles, I'm assuming you've taken care of the vehicles with the same attention to detail—and I'd willing to pay you more for your cars as a result.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

UNDER THE HOOD

Whining, balky truck needs a fresh starter

By BRAD BERGHOLDT

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: My truck has begun to make a really strange sound sometimes when I try to start it. The normal sound of the starter is replaced by a high pitched zinging sound, and the engine doesn't start. If I try starting it several times, it usually catches and the engine starts. What's up with this?—Adam Heller

ANSWER: This is an easy one! It appears from your description that the drive, an internal component of the starter, is beginning to fail. The starter drive assembly, a renewable part within the starter, contains the starter's pinion gear and a one-way clutch. When in operation, the pinion gear pushes forward to engage teeth on the engine's flywheel or flex plate, providing a gear reduction in the neighborhood of 20 to 1. This means the starter spins at about 20 times the speed of the engine (about 200 rpm to 4000 rpm) while cranking. The oneway clutch within the drive allows the starter to drive the engine, but prevents the engine from driving the starter.

Why the clutch? If the starter didn't disengage from the engine upon startup, either due to operator error or mechanical or electrical failure, the starter would be spun to perhaps 30,000 rpm or faster, resulting in a huge electrical nightmare and possibly an explosion. When driven, the starter becomes a generator providing a sizeable and unregulated power source; it could even come apart due to the very high rotational speed.

The starter drive's one-way clutch is more specifically called an overrunning clutch. This device resembles a roller bearing with ramps that allow the rollers to freewheel in one direction but wedge in the other. Bicycles use an overrunning clutch in the rear hub to allow you to pedal when desired, regardless of bike speed. If an overrunning clutch becomes worn or mechanically sticky, it may slip when it's supposed to drive. In the case of your starter, this results in a very fast or "unloaded" starter spin, as it's not driving the engine. Subsequent starting attempts may be successful due to heat-up or jarring of the rollers, but not for long.

Depending on the starter, the drive may be serviceable—the cost is perhaps \$30—but renewing just this part may be penny-wise, pound-foolish as opposed to installing a remanufactured starter assembly. Other internal starter parts may also be nearing retirement, and you'd be paying for disassembly and reassembly time, in addition to the labor to replace any parts.

Remanufactured starters can be a little spooky in quality. I'd opt for a big-name brand or look for a local rebuilder with a good reputation among repair shops. They all come with a replacement warranty, but labor reimbursement is likely not provided.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-thehood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Addressing a problem with car's heating

Q: I have a 2005 Chrysler PT Cruiser with 99,000 miles. On cold mornings, the brakes feel hard for the first

couple of applications. After four or five pumps they feel normal and work fine. I don't believe the brake fluid has ever been changed. What would vou recommend?

A: My maintenance schedule for every vehicle I've owned has included bleeding the brake system to exchange 100 percent of the brake fluid every two years. This removes any moisture in the fluid that could lead to corrosion and brake problems.

In subzero temperatures, a very stiff/ hard brake pedal upon first start-up can

vacuum hose or the check valve supplying engine vacuum to the power brake booster. I suspect this is what you're experiencing. Flush, clean, dry or replace the hose and valve.

Q: A bad axle seal caused the manual transmission on my 1996 Escort to go bad at 133,000 miles. After a complete rebuild, trouble code PO500 (vehicle speed sensor malfunction) came on after about 25 miles of driving. I replaced the vehicle speed sensor and cleared the trouble code, but after another 25 miles of driving, the PO500 code set again. I've checked electrical connections to the sensor, and all seems well. Could the mating drive

be caused by moisture freezing in the **gear inside the transmission possi**bly be free-wheeling and not driving the sensor after the rebuild?

> A: According to my Alldata automotive database, the vehicle speed sensor drives the speedometer cable as well as providing an electrical signal to the PCM. So, unless the speedometer is not working properly, the sensor is being driven correctly by the transmission. Focus on the harness and connections for the sensor. In the course of removing and reinstalling the transmission, the harness may well have been pinched, pulled or shorted.

> Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car. is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.

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Life & Style

Facebook party spins out of control

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN (AP)—Better check your Facebook settings before posting a party invitation online.

A teenage girl in Germany who forgot to mark her birthday invitation as private on Facebook fled her own party when more than 1,500 guests showed up and around 100 police officers, some on horses, were needed to keep the crowd under control.

Eleven people were temporarily detained, one police officer was injured, dozens of girls wearing flip-flops cut their feet on broken glass and firefight-

ers had to extinguish two small fires at the 16th birthday party in Hamburg, police spokesman Mirko Streiber said Sunday.

The birthday girl, identified only as Thessa, went into hiding, Streiber said, but "nonetheless the party was a hit."

Thessa had initially only wanted to ask some friends over to her home in Hamburg-Bramfeld when she posted her invitation on Facebook, but mistakenly she published it so that everyone on Facebook could see it.

The invitation quickly went viral, and some 15,000 people confirmed online they would

even knowing the girl, weekly paper Bild am Sonntag reported.

When Thessa's parents found out, they made their daughter cancel the party, informed police and hired a private security service to protect their home on Friday night.

Despite public announcements in Hamburg that the party had been canceled, some 1,500 teenagers and young adults showed up on the street in front of Thessa's home, Streiber told The Associated Press.

"We had cordoned off the house, some 100 police were on the ground, four of them on horses—but that did not keep come to the party-without the kids from celebrating,"

Streiber said.

Some revelers held up signs asking "Where is Thessa?" others brought birthday presents and homemade cake, there was lots of alcohol and the crowd chanted again and again, "Thessa, celebrating a birthday is not a crime,"—in obvious relation Bild reported.

The police officer was injured when he tried to keep a party reveler from breaking off the Mercedes-Benz logo of his patrol car.

"It was sheer insanity but mostly peaceful," Streiber

to the massive police presence, summed up the night with a laugh.

> As for Thessa—she was nowhere to be seen. Police confirmed she "was not at home that night" and Bild reported that she celebrated quietly with her grandparents at an undisclosed location.



In this photo made available Sunday, June 5, 2011, party goers gather in Hamburg, Germany, Friday, June 3, 2011, after a teenage girl, identified only as Thessa, forgot to mark her birthday invitation as private on

Oregon woman develops foreign accent after surgery

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—Karen Butler has a British-sounding accent, but she's never been to Europe. She woke up from dental surgery one day talking funny. A year and a half later her "foreign" accent remains, and her story has traveled around the world.

The 56-year-old tax consultant from Toledo, Ore., has found her life transformed by the dental procedure, which left her with dentures, and—depending on whom you ask—an Eastern European, Swedish or British accent.

Butler had all her top teeth and front bottom teeth removed in November 2009 because of gingivitis. A week later the swelling had gone away, but she still sounded strange. Her dentist told her she just had to get used to her new teeth.

But as weeks stretched on with no change, Butler did some online research. She diagnosed herself with Foreign Accent Syndrome, a medical condition with only a few dozen documented cases.

The syndrome is often the result of brain injury; though it is uncommon, most neurologists will see at least one case in their career, said Dr. Helmi Lutsep, professor and vice-chair of the Department of Neurology at Oregon Health & Science University. Sometimes a person just sounds slightly off; other times there may be a more dramaticsounding accent, Lutsep said.

"We don't know exactly how or why it happens, but it simply affects rhythm of language," Lutsep said. "I'm absolutely convinced this is a real phenomenon. These people are not making it up."

Butler believes she hasn't had a stroke or any brain trauma. She said she has tried, but hasn't been able to get a brain scan because she said her medical insurance will not cover it.

"There's nothing wrong with having an accent," said Butler, who was born in Bloomington,



In this June 2, 2011 photo, Karen Butler gets a big hug from her husband, Glen Butler at her office in Newport, Ore.

Ill., and moved to Oregon before she turned one.

In Toledo, a small town of about 3,500 people, Butler is a novelty with her exotic accent. And that was before she went on the "Today" show and was featured on more than a dozen other television shows, newspaper articles and radio stations from Europe to Australia.

Josica Tichert, 58, of Newport, has had Butler prepare her taxes for five years but didn't realize what happened until she saw her on TV.

"I just kind of thought ... well, maybe she did speak that way before," Tichert said. "And then, when I was watching the news, they had her on there, and I go, 'Oh my gosh, she does my taxes.""

Butler's co-workers at H&R Block noticed the change, but most didn't ask her directly; they didn't want to be rude. Some presumed she was taking voice lessons or had "visited (her) homeland."

Since mid-April, when a client put her in touch with a local news station, Butler has been engaged in a swirl of media activity. The grandmother who has five children of her own had never been to New York until NBC flew her out for the "Today" show.

The Butlers said most of their time was spent fielding interviews and going from one meeting with reporters to the next.

Aside from the media attention, Karen Butler said her life hasn't changed much. She's less shy because of all the questions she's been asked. For a while her family treated the accent like a "new toy," asking her to say certain words or phrases.

She can't hear her own accent when she speaks, but Butler said she can feel herself forming words differently. She talks about her daughter, Jamie, as a "twenty-VUN" year old. She said the accent has softened over time and was initially strongly 'Transylvanian'' sounding.

Every now and then, Butler's daughter Cindy Miller, 36, calls her mom's cell phone just to listen to the voicemail. Butler hasn't changed it since the procedure.

"After all this time I like to hear it. I like to remember what it was. What my voice sounded like," Butler said. "I don't feel different inside at all. I'm the same old me I ever was."

Assisted suicide advocate Kevorkian dies at age 83 **DETROIT** (AP)—Jack Kevto charge him in the case that

Kevorkian

orkian, the audacious, fearless doctor who spurred on the national right-to-die debate with a homemade suicide machine that helped end the lives of dozens of ailing people, died Friday at a Detroit-area hos-

pital after a brief illness. He was 83.

Kevorkian died about 2:30 a.m. at William Beaumont Hospital in Michigan, close friend and prominent attorney Mayer Morganroth said. He had been hospitalized since last month with pneumo-

nia and kidney problems. The retired pathologist, who said he injected lethal drugs that helped some 130 people die during the 1990s, likened himself to Martin Luther King and Gandhi and called prosecutors Nazis and his critics religious fanatics. He burned state orders against him, showed up at court in costume, called doctors who didn't support him "hypocritic oafs" and challenged authorities to stop him or make his actions legal.

"The issue's got to be raised to the level where it is finally decided," Kevorkian said during a broadcast of CBS' "60 Minutes" that aired a Lou Gehrig's disease patient's videotaped 1998 death as Kevorkian challenged prosecutors eventually sent him to prison.

Experts credit Kevorkian, who insisted that people had the right to have a medical professional help them die, with publicizing physicianassisted suicide. Even so, few

states made it legal. Laws went into effect in Oregon in 1997 and Washington state in 2009, and a 2009 Montana Supreme Court ruling effectively legalized the practice in that state.

"Somebody to do something for suffering humanity,"

Kevorkian once said. "I put myself in my patients' place. This is something I would want."

In the end, however, he was too weak to take advantage of the option he offered others, said Geoffrey Fieger, Kevorkian's former attorney.

"If he had enough strength to do something about it, he would have," Fieger said at a news conference in Southfield. "Had he been able to go home Jack Kevorkian probably would not have allowed himself to go back to the hospital."

People who died with his help suffered from cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease, multiple sclerosis, paralysis. They died in their homes, an office, a Detroit island park, a remote cabin and

the back of Kevorkian's van.

An official cause of death for Kevorkian was not immediately determined, but Morganroth said it likely will be pulmonary thrombosis, a blood clot.

"I had seen him earlier and he was conscious," said Morganroth, who added that the two spoke about Kevorkian's pending release from the hospital and planned start of rehabilitation. "Then I left and he took a turn for the worst and I went back."

Nurses played recordings of classical music by composer Johann Sebastian Bach for Kevorkian before he died, Morganroth said.

Nicknamed "Dr. Death," Kevorkian catapulted into public consciousness in 1990 when he used his homemade "suicide machine" in his rusted Volkswagen van to inject lethal drugs into an Alzheimer's patient who sought his help in dying.

For nearly a decade, he escaped authorities' efforts to stop him. His first four trials, all on assisted suicide charges, resulted in three acquittals and one mistrial

When asked in 2010 how his own epitaph should read, Kevorkian said it should reflect what he believes to be his "real virtue.

"I am quite honest. I have trouble lying. I don't like people who lie."

Palin: I didn't 'mess up' Paul Revere history

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sarah warn the British." Palin insisted Sunday that history was on her side when she claimed that Paul Revere's famous ride was intended to warn both British soldiers and his fellow colonists.

"You realize that you messed up about Paul Revere, don't you?" "Fox News Sunday" anchor Chris Wallace asked the potential 2012 presidential can-

"I didn't mess up about Paul Revere," replied Palin, a paid contributor to the network.

"Part of his ride was to warn the British that were already there. That, hey, you're not going to succeed. You're not going to take American arms. You are not going to beat our own well-armed persons, individual, private militia that we have," she added. "He did

Palin, who again said she has not decided whether to run for president, was asked about the Revolutionary War hero during a stop Thursday in Boston on her East Coast bus tour.

"He who warned the British that they weren't gonna be takin' away our arms by ringing those bells, and makin' sure as he's riding his horse through town to send those warning shots and bells that we were going to be sure and we were going to be free, and we were going to be armed."

Palin's brush with the nation's history came toward the end of her "One Nation" bus tour that generated intense interest as she traveled from Washington to New England. Along the way, she steadfastly refused "a million times" to say whether she was running for president.

"I'm publicizing Americana and our foundation and how important it is that we learn about our past and our challenges and victories throughout American history, so that we can successfully proceed forward," Palin said in the broadcast interview. "It's not a campaign tour."

And was she leaning toward or against running, Palin was asked?

"Still right there in the middle," she said.

There's no ambiguity about the interest Palin generates, a point that doesn't sit comfortably in some quarters of a party without a clear front-runner to face President Barack Obama next year.

Palin's closely watched bus trip is a key example. Its camera-ready events competed for



In this June 2, 2011, file photo former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, holding a booklet depicting Paul Revere, speaks briefly with the media as she tours Boston's North End neighborhood.

coverage in the same week and region as former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney's formal entry into the race. His candidacy is perhaps the most formidable of the emerging field.

Asked Sunday whether he could envision supporting Palin for president, Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, a former hopeful, told "Face the Nation" on CBS: "If Barack Obama was the head of the other ticket, I could."

For her part, Palin was contrite. "I apologize if I stepped on

any, any of that PR that Mitt Romney needed or wanted that day," Palin said. "I do sincerely apologize. I didn't mean to step on anybody's toes."

While she continued to insist that she wasn't competing for anything in particular, Palin said

LOS ANGELES (AP)—

Young X-Men don't have the

same box-office superpowers as

solid No. 1 opening with a \$56

million weekend, according to

But the 20th Century Fox pre-

quel chronicling the formative

years of the comic-book mu-

tants found smaller audiences

than the franchise's first four

big-screen adventures, which

featured older versions of the

Debut weekends for the last

three "X-Men" flicks ranged

from \$85.1 million to \$102.8

million. The original "X-Men'

opened 11 years ago with \$54.5

million, but that would amount

to about \$80 million today ad-

justing for ticket-price inflation.

Chris Aronson said the studio

achieved its goal of opening

the prequel at about the same

revenue numbers as the origi-

"This is just an excellent start

nal "X-Men."

Fox distribution executive

studio estimates Sunday.

"X-Men: First Class" had a

their older selves.

X-Men.

she would welcome Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann, another Republican with tea party appeal, to the race.

"More competition, the better," Palin said.

For now, Palin is clearly grappling with the downside of celebrity.

Even her otherwise successful media events can leave lingering questions about Palin's grasp of-and interest in-history, public policy and other subjects of substance.

On Sunday, Palin insisted she was right about the purpose of Revere's famous "midnight ride."

"I know my American history," she told Wallace.

The colonists at the time of Revere's ride were British subjects, with American independence still in the future. But Revere's own writing and other historical accounts leave little doubt that secrecy was vital to his mission.

The Paul Revere House's website says that on April 18, 1775, Dr. Joseph Warren, a patriot leader in the Boston area, instructed Revere to ride to Lexington, Mass., to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock that British troops were marching to arrest them.

In an undated letter posted by the Massachusetts Historical Society, Revere later wrote of the need to keep his activities secret and his suspicion that a member of his tight circle of planners had become a British informant. According to the letter, believed to have been written around 1798, Revere did provide some details of the plan to the soldiers that night, but after he had notified other colonists and under questioning by the Redcoats.

Intercepted and surrounded by British soldiers on his way from Lexington to Concord, Revere revealed "there would be five hundred Americans there in a short time, for I had alarmed the country all the way up," he wrote.

Revere was probably bluffing the soldiers about the size of any advancing militia, since he had no way of knowing, according to Joel J. Miller, author of "The Revolutionary Paul Revere." And while he made bells, Revere would never have rung any on that famous night because the Redcoats were under orders to round up people just like him.

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X-Men: First Class

Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45 1:10 4:10 7:10 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender Action, Fantasy • PG 13

Synopsis

Set in the era before Professor Charles Xavier and Erik Lehnsher became mortal enemies as Professor X and Magneto, respectively director Matthew Vaughn's X-Men: First Class follows the two forme allies as they lead a powerful team of mutants on a mission to save the planet from nuclear annihilation. Charles (James McAvoy) and Erik (Michael Fassbender) were just young men when it began to appear as if the world was careening toward destruction.



Oba: The Last Samurai

1:20 4:20 7:20 9:50 1:20 4:20 7:20 Mon thru Thurs

Yutaka Takenouchi, Sean McGowan

Synopsis

American perspectives in "Oba, the Last Samurai," an engrossing portrait of Capt. Sakae Oba, whose loyalist band continued fighting for four months after hostilities officially ceased. Carefully balancing Oba's guerrill a campaign with a U.S. officer's mission to flush him out this handsomely mounted pic captures the mindset of Japanes



Kung Fu Panda 2

Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30 1:00 4:00 7:00 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Children's Family • Rated PG

this second entry from DreamWorks Animation and Paramount Pictures. Jennifer Yuh Nelson directs from a script by Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger.



The Hangover Part 2

1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40 Friday & Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 Sunday 4:25 7:25 Mon thru Thurs

Bradley Cooper, Zack Galifianakis Comedy • Rated R



1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35 Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 Sunday 4:05 7:05

Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman



1:15 4:15 7:15 Sunday Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Johnny Depp, Penélope Cruz Adventure • Rated PG 13



Fast Five

1:30 4:30 7:30 4:30 7:30

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker Action • Rated PG 13

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The fall of Saipan during WWII is viewed from Japanese and soldiers and civilians coming to terms with an unthinkable defeat

Jack Black and Angelina Jolie return to lend their voice talents to the Kung Fu Panda franchise with

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Strange Tides Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00

Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55 Sunday Mon thru Thurs

in launching a brand new chapter of the 'X-Men' franchise," said Aronson, dismissing comparisons to the \$85.1 million debut of Hugh Jackman's "X-Men

Origins: Wolverine" in 2009. "You can't compare this one

'X-Men' mutants weaken with \$56M prequel debut to any of the other 'X-Men' movies, except maybe" the first one, Aronson said. "Something like 'Wolverine' is a totally unfair comparison because that had a bonafide worldwide star in Hugh Jackman and arguably the most popular character in the 'X-Men' stable."

The prequel presents a rising

- "X-Men: First Class,"
- \$56 million. "The Hangover Part II," \$32.4 million.
- "Kung Fu Panda 2," \$24.3 million.
- 4. "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," \$18 million.
- "Bridesmaids," \$12.1
- "Thor," \$4.2 million.
- "Fast Five," \$3.2 million. "Midnight in Paris," \$2.9
- "Jumping the Broom," \$865.000
- 10. "Something Borrowed," \$835,000.

cast of new talent rather than the established stars of the franchise's previous chapters.

"X-Men: First Class" features James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender as Marvel Comics mutants Professor X and Magneto, roles originated by Patrick

Stewart and Ian McKellen in the characters' older years.

The preguel follows their first meeting, early alliance and eventual falling out as they take opposite approaches in their dealings with ordinary humans fearful of the superpowered mutants.

The movie added \$64 million from 74 overseas markets for a worldwide total of \$120 million.

The previous weekend's top movie, the Warner Bros. sequel "The Hangover Part II," fell to second-place with \$32.4 million. That raised its domestic total to \$186.9 million but represented a steep 62 percent drop from its huge opening weekend.

Still, with overall receipts rising for the fourth-straight weekend, Hollywood continued on a summer box-office tear that has helped studios recover from a dismal first quarter.

Domestic revenues totaled \$164 million, up 27 percent from the same weekend a year ago, when "Shrek Forever After" was No. 1 with \$25.5 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"We're definitely on a roll compared to the first quarter, when we were so used to having one down weekend after another," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

De Niro plays elder statesman at Guys Choice

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)— Fresh from leading the Cannes jury, Robert De Niro found himself on stage at the Guys Choice Awards praising Keith Richards' "big brass balls" and telling an audience that Sean Penn peaked with "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."

De Niro played the dirtymouthed elder statesman at Saturday night's Spike TV honors, a sort of brash, puerile younger brother to the MTV Movie Awards, which is airing live on that network Sunday.

Like that show, the Guys Choice stage on the Sony lot was populated by Hollywood types with something to promote—mostly summer movies.

Justin Timberlake leered at his "Friends With Benefits" co-star Mila Kunis as she took the "Holy Grail of Hot" trophy, while his "Bad Teacher" co-star Cameron Diaz kicked off the show with a monologue.

"Mr. Popper's Penguins" star Jim Carrey shared an unprintable story about how he became a funnyman through a painful encounter with an uncle.

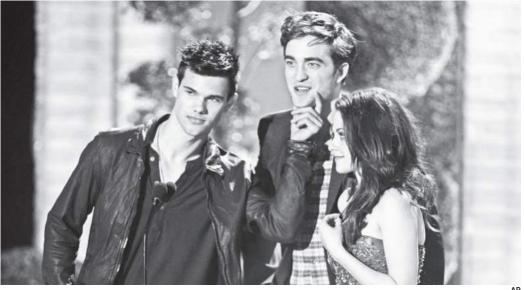
"I'm actually kind of a geek that way when I come out to these things," Carrey said backstage. "It's half to just be creative and do some crazy, blowout thing and half because I like seeing people that are in my business. Kind of cool."

Richards took the night's final honor, a lifetime achievement trophy previously given to the likes of Clint Eastwood. He hoisted the Brass Balls award, which resembles a giant dumbbell with spheres on two sides.

"I mean, I've had a few awards in my time," the rock legend said backstage. "With the balls it's like where to put them? It's easy to pick them up but where are you going to put them? I've got to figure that out with the wife."

Penn led a "Fast Times" reunion onstage, joined by Forest Whitaker, Judge Reinhold and other cast members.

pirate show



From left, Taylor Lautner, Robert Pattinson, and Kristen Stewart are seen onstage at the MTV Movie Awards on Sunday, June 5, 2011, in Los Angeles.

Pattinson sinks teeth into MTV Movie Awards

UNIVERSAL CITY, Ca**lif.** (AP)—The MTV Movie Awards was more like "The Team Edward Show.'

"Twilight" star Robert Pattinson sucked up the spotlight—and the popcorn-shaped trophies at Sunday's shenanigan-packed ceremony. Among the goofy actor's moments: winning three different awards, unexpectedly kissing co-star Taylor Lautner, and slipping the F-word past censors when presenting Reese Witherspoon with the special MTV Generation Award.

"It's not always a bad thing to have sexual chemistry with your mother," joked Pattinson, who played the son of Witherspoon's character in "Vanity Fair" as well as her love interest in "Water for Elephants."

For his role as vampire Edward Cullen in "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse," Pattinson won best male performance, best fight with Bryce Dallas Howard and Xavier Samuel, and best kiss with Kristen Stewart. Instead of smooching each other, Pattinson declared he didn't "feel like kissing" Stewart before he descended back into the audience and planted his lips on Lautner.

Team Jacob also earned some love from "Saturday Night Live" star Jason Sudeikis, the show's host, who kicked off the silly ceremony at the Gibson Amphitheater by starring in his own version of "The Hangover" in which he went in search of a lost Lautner. The other "Twilight" winners were Stewart for best female performance and "Eclipse" for best movie.

"The fact that we're standing up here is a testament to all the hard work that went into 'Eclipse," Lautner said.

The non-vampire winners Breaking Dawn—Part One."

who picked up awards Sunday included Justin Bieber for best Tom Felton for best villain for "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1."

"This will look very nice in my downstairs toilet," Felton

The show also served as a promotional platform for Hollywood studios' upcoming films as much as it did an awards ceremony. Emma Watson, J.J. Abrams, Steven Spielberg and Elle Fanning were among the celebrities on hand to present sneak peeks at "Super 8," "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" and "The Twilight Saga:

jaw dropping moment for "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never," Emma Stone for best comedic performance for "Easy A," Alexys Nycole Sanchez for best line for "Grown Ups," and

said of his trophy.

mom and I would go shopping, it always ended in a big fight with me in tears. I was teased mercilessly by the other children for dressing like a "40-year-old" and never had the cool things the other kids were wearing even though my clothes cost just

DEAR ABBY: When my daughter was younger, she had

Because of this she has learned how to manage money, shop

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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R&B diva LaBelle sued over alleged airport beating

HOUSTON (AP)—A West Point cadet is suing veteran R&B diva Patti LaBelle, saying she ordered her bodyguards to beat him up as he waited for a ride home outside a Houston airport terminal.

The lawsuit alleges the cadet, Richard King, was waiting for his brother and father to pick him up outside one of the terminals at Bush Intercontinental Airport on March 11, when three of LaBelle's bodyguards attacked him. King was in Houston, his hometown, while on spring break from West Point.

"Apparently, defendant La-Belle believed King was standing too close to her (no doubt expensive) luggage, even though he was oblivious to her presence and the danger he was in," according to King's lawsuit, which was filed in Houston civil court on Wednesday and also names the bodyguards, the airport and a taxi dispatcher as co-defendants. "LaBelle lowered the window of her limousine and gave a command to her bodyguards. They sprang into action."

One of King's lawyers, John Raley, said the alleged attacked resulted in a concussion and lingering dizziness and headaches for his client. The lawyer said King, who played defensive back for Army, was told by his doctors he can never play football again because of his injuries. The lawsuit is asking for unspecified damages.

nant" has been arrested on drug

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS **Dolly Parton launches**

MYRTLE BEACH, South Carolina (AP) —Singer Dolly Parton is going for a pirate theme as she opens her new dinner theater this weekend. Parton said Friday her western-themed Dixie Stampede show was very successful over 19 years but says it was time for a change and pirates are a theme that everyone can enjoy. Parton says she started thinking of the new show about four years ago. She says the opening was delayed a bit because of the troubled economy. Pirates Voyage features two pirate galleons and a sunken wreck in a 15-foot (4 1/2-meter) deep indoor lagoon. It opens Friday evening with a

VIP performance and opens to the public Saturday night. The show features pirate battles and mermaids and represents an \$11 million investment.

D'Onofrio in Utah to raisemoney for officers

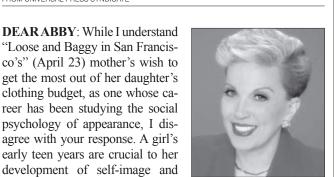
PROVO, Utah (AP)—Vincent D'Onofrio is visiting Utah to drum up financial support for his real-life heroes: public safety workers who have been exposed to toxins from methamphetamine labs while on duty. The visit by the "Law & Order: Criminal Intent" star visit coincides with Saturday's "Ride for a Hero." The motorcycle ride originating in American Fork benefits police officers, firefighters and military personnel

who have been sickened by exposure to toxic chemicals. The fundraising event sponsored by the Utah Meth Cops Project is designed to help victims undergo a \$5,200-per-person detoxification program. D'Onofrio portrays a police investigator on the USA Network show. He says 92 people have undergone the program in Utah since it began in 2007 and the recovery rate is 100 percent. He says he hopes to raise public awareness about their plight.

Ga. mom from **'16 and Pregnant'** faces drug charges

ROME, Ga. (AP)—A Georgia mother who appeared on an episode of MTV's "16 and Pregcharges. Authorities say 37-yearold April Michelle Purvis was arrested Sunday morning during a road check in Floyd County. Purvis is charged with felony possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. Purvis and her daughter Whitney were featured in the first season of the popular reality show about teenage pregnancy. A passenger in her car was charged with misdemeanor marijuana possession. Police say a drug dog found the marijuana between the seats of the car and the meth in Purvis' pocket. It was not immediately clear if she had an attorney. A message left at a number listed in Purvis' name was not returned.





Parents who want to assist their

overall self-esteem. This is a ma-

jor reason for their obsession with

their appearance.

daughters through the quagmire of appearance-related issues associated with these years should work with their daughters by being open to their needs, yet not allow them to exceed boundaries of decency, etc. A 13-year-old who wants clothing that fits should be accommodated. Otherwise, she stands to become ashamed of her appearance, inclined to act out through her appearance once she gains control over what she wears, and be overly obsessed with it well beyond her teen years.

KAREN KAIGLER-WALKER, PH.D. BURBANK, CALIF.

DEAR DR. KAIGLER-WALKER: Thank you for your opinion. Many readers also empathized with "Loose and Baggy." Read on for their views on the subject:

DEAR ABBY: I had the same problems when I was 13. My mom always made me buy clothes that were too large, too long, etc. But my grandmother was a clever seamstress who helped "nip and tuck" the extra material away until I needed it. She could also add new cool-looking details to the clothes. "Loose and Baggy" may also have a relative with a talent for clothing alterations, or if not, she most likely has a tailor or alteration shop nearby.

I'm 15 now and still have many of the same clothes. It has saved money in the long run because we can just let the stitches out instead of buying new clothes. At 13, she still has some room for growth.

GRANDDAUGHTER OF A TOP-LEVEL TAILOR

DEAR ABBY: I empathize with "Loose and Baggy." When my

I vowed never to do that with my daughter, and by the time she was 12 she was shopping for her own clothes. Our only rule was that she had to follow the three B's—no butt, no boobs and no belly. At 16 she has an amazing sense of fashion and is often emulated. "Loose and Baggy" should be given some boundaries and then allowed to buy what she wants.

REFORMED FRUMP IN TEXAS

specific style tastes that included expensive, trendy clothes. I implemented a budget that allowed her to have a set amount of money on the first day of the new season. The money was given to her in cash or, later, in her checking account. She was responsible for budgeting the amount herself for her clothes during that season.

"high end" on sale and roll over unused amounts to the next season. She has become a responsible teenager who understands the value of the dollar. She also trades outfits with her friendsor consigns them to resale stores. "Loose and Baggy" sounds like part of the "entitlement" generation and probably would learn more if she was part of the solution.

SMART MOM/SMART DAUGHTER

22 TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

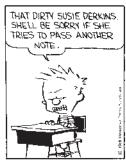
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

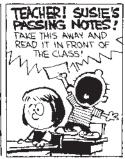
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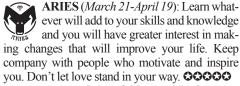
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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Cera, 23; Anna Kournikova, 30; Bill Hader, 33; Liam Neeson, 59

Happy Birthday: Change can be good but do your homework. Jumping into something you know little about will backfire. Use your ability to adapt and find solutions and you will keep the momentum going at a rate you can afford. Don't let a personal problem stand in your way. Your numbers are 9, 16, 23, 28, 34, 39, 43



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Common sense and practicality won't be your strong points. Emotional situations will develop if you don't walk away from people who are a poor influence. If you don't stand up for what you want, no one else will. 😂

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Manipulation is apparent. Keep things simple, be a good listener, make up your own mind and be aware of all the possibilities. Sincerity will make it difficult for others to give you a hard time. OOOO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): There are many sides to a situation you face. You have to give everyone the opportunity to reveal his or her position before you make up your mind and make a move. Suggestions will be received much better than demands.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't make decisions if you are emotional about the situation you face. Financial or contractual deception is apparent. Don't let a past partner or experience interfere with what you do now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen carefully and respond with thoughtfulness and you will not only maintain control, you will captivate your audience. Don't let the serious side of life hold you hostage. Allow time for adventure and personal gratification.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get involved in events, activities or social functions that will bring you in touch with people who inspire you to move forward with your creative dreams. Hard work, preparation and good organization will be key. Avoid any financial or contractual offer that sounds too good to be true.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A contract, deal or proposal will start to pay off. Opportunity is apparent and the people you connect with now will be significant in your life for some time to come. Don't let your lover dis-

tract you from what you must finish. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Past mistakes will come back to haunt you. It's best to make amends and resolve old

debts before they turn into something unmanageable. Domestic or personal changes can improve a partnership. Keep steady progress in a positive direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The changes you make to your personal assets or other investments will pay off **EUGENIA**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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royally in the future. Renovating or making a residential move will be favorable. Love is in the stars, so socialize or nurture a current relationship. OOOOO

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Assess your situation honestly. It's your inability to look at the real cause or situation you face that will lead to a poor decision. Rely on the people who have supported and advised you in the past. A change of scenery will do you good. OOO

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Face adversity head-on. It's being honest and brave enough to deal with matters that will bring you the respect and the support you

require. Secret affairs will not turn out well. A friend or relative will object to something you are doing. OOO

Birthday Baby: You are creative and imaginative. You know how to captivate your audience. You are a philosopher, a lifelong student and a great teacher.

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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By DAVID WONDERWORD **CUELLET**

HOW TO PIAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters shell the Wonderson

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Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

The Board of Directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce an impending vacancy on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the NMI Council for the Humanities.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Tracy M. Guerrero, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2011. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

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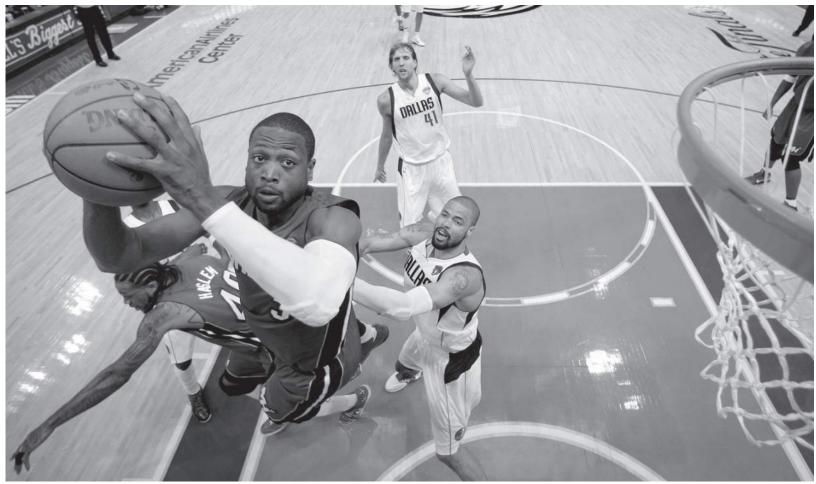
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section



Wade, Bosh lift Heat to 2-1 lead in finals Pistons fire



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade goes up for a shot during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA Finals basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks Sunday, June 5, 2011, in Dallas.



DALLAS (AP)—Dwyane Wade kept soaring and scoring, doing everything he could to get the Miami Heat a crucial win towards an NBA title.

Chris Bosh and Udonis Haslem provided the final push.

Bosh made a 16-foot, go-ahead jumper from the baseline with 39.6 seconds left and Haslem pestered Dirk Nowitzki the rest of the way as the Heat held on for an 88-86 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday night for a 2-1 lead in the NBA finals.

"This is a total win," said Wade, who led Miami with 29 points and 11 rebounds. "You want to win the game on the defensive end of the floor and we got a stop."

Recent history says this is a huge win for the Heat. The Game 3 winner in a tied finals has won the championship all 11 times since the 2-3-2 format began in 1985.

The Heat are headed into Game 4 on Tuesday night with a chance to do what they did in 2006: win it all on Dallas' floor. They'll need to win that game and the next, on Thursday night.

"I feel like we did nothing but get home-court advantage back," Wade said. "But the next game is a big game. We have to bring our hard hats, understanding it's going to be tougher to win that game than it was to win this one. I believe in this team. If anyone can do it, I believe we can."

With all its star power, many expected Miami to be planning a victory parade by now, especially after a solid victory in Game 1.

But the Heat blew a 15-point lead in the last quarter of Game 2, and nearly did it again this time, coughing up a 14-point lead.

The Heat recovered to lead 81-74 with 6:31 left. Everyone knew the Mavericks' comeback bid would be in Nowitzki's hands, but it didn't matter. He still scored 12 straight points—six free throws, a layup, a dunk and a tough jumper—tying it at 86.

With under a minute to go, Wade got the ball to LeBron James near the top of the key. Haslem screened Nowitzki while Bosh got set, took the pass from James and ripped it through the net, quite a thrill for the Dallas native who'd been 0-8 in his hometown. It was even more impressive considering his left eyelid was swollen because of an accidental poke by Jason Kidd in the first quarter, and he'd been misfiring all series, even when his vision was good.

"I don't care if he missed 15 in a row," James said. "He was wide open and that's his sweet spot. ... It's the trust we have in each other's ability, no matter what the point of the game is at."

The Mavericks of course went back to Nowitzki on its last two chances. And Haslem was right there both times for the Heat.

Right after Bosh scored, Nowitzki wanted to take a shot near the foul line but had Haslem swarming him and Wade charging at him. He jumped to shoot but twisted and threw toward Shawn Marion near the 3-point line on the right side. Marion had already taken off toward the basket, so the ball went into the front row instead.

After James missed a 3, Dallas had 4.4 seconds left to go for the tie or win. The inbounds pass went to Nowitzki and he was alone against Haslem just above the foul line.

Haslem anticipated what Nowitzki was going to do and walked the fine line between disrupting the shot while avoiding a foul.

"He's a great player, 7 feet, so he's going to shoot over me," Haslem said. "I've got to make it tough on him."

When the buzzer went off, Haslem swung his arms and screamed in delight while a frenzied crowd of 20,340 sighed in agony.

"Emotional game, fought back, and to fall short at the end is tough," said Nowitzki who scored 34 points. "But they need two more. Hopefully we can play a better all-around game and finally get some shots to go down."

Wade made 12 of 21 shots and was at his dynamic best from the start, looking like the guy who lifted the Heat past Dallas and to the title in '06.

"He was aggressive and took good shots," Bosh said. "We rode the wave for a little while. He set the tone for us."

Most of his baskets came in the paint—where the Heat outscored the Mavs, 40-22—and many of them were spectacular. But he also stemmed Dallas' rally by hitting a goahead jumper over Kidd for Miami's second-to-last basket, and he made sure to keep his teammates properly focused, offering praise or scolding when needed. When James was duped into a shot-clock violation in the final minutes, Wade pounded his fists on his head in frustration.

"I've been here before," Wade said.
"So (I was) just trying to lead. My guys did a great job of following that lead. We were able to come out with the win."

Wade and Bosh each scored seven points in the fourth quarter. Bosh finished with 18 points.

James came in talking about being more aggressive, but wasn't. He went more than 6 minutes before taking his first shot, but certainly made it worth the wait—a drive through the teeth of the defense for a powerful dunk. He also had a two-handed jam in the second half that put Miami up by 13.

He finished with 17 points and nine assists. He also had four turnovers, including a pair during the fourth quarter—not counting the shot-clock violation—that helped bring Dallas back.

Nowitzki scored 15 points in the fourth quarter, but didn't get much help, in the period or the rest of the game.

Terry scored 15 and Shawn Marion had 10. Both were shut out in the fourth quarter. The only other scorers were backup point guard J.J. Barea early in the quarter and Tyson Chandler dunking off a rebound.

For the game, Nowitzki made 11

shots, the rest of the Mavericks 17.

"We have to have somebody step up besides Dirk," said Jason Kidd, who had nine points and 10 assists, but also four turnovers. Giveaways haunted Dallas throughout the game, especially the first half, helping keep Miami comfortably ahead. "We have to figure out how to get up front and play up front. The big thing is we've got to be able to make plays late in the game. Game 2 we made the plays, Game 3 we just didn't."

Dallas was without backup center Brendan Haywood because of a hip injury. His absence meant more minutes for several frontcourt players, and it put Ian Mahinmi on the court for 8 minutes. He scored two points and committed five fouls.

Miami led by seven after the first quarter, the final three points coming on a buzzer-beater by Mario Chalmers. The Heat lead hit 14 in the second quarter, dipped to five at halftime then ran back to 13 early in the third quarter.

But the Heat couldn't put the Mavs away. Dallas would surge close or ahead, then Miami would turn it up again. The final 18 minutes played out with both teams realizing any possession could change the game and the series.

Nothing came easy for anyone. Shots were contested, bodies collided for every rebound and guys were flying into the stands after loose balls. Fans stood throughout, wearing their blue gimme T-shirts and fired up by videos such as one featuring encouraging words from Roger Staubach, Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Nolan Ryan and others.

Ultimately, it was the visitors from Miami who walked off celebrating.

"Now we just have to move on," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "The tough part right now is amnesia. Both teams are highly competitive, this is a competitive series as you can see. We have to really gather ourselves in 48 hours and get right back and do this again."

Pistons fire coach John Kuester

DETROIT (AP)—John Kuester juggled his lineup, benched veterans and tried seemingly every combination he could think of to shake the Detroit Pistons out of their funk.

When none of it worked, he lost his job.

The Pistons fired their embattled coach Sunday, four days after new owner Tom Gores completed an agreement to buy the team from Karen Davidson. Kuester was 57-107 over two seasons with Detroit, which failed to make the postseason in consecutive years for the first time since missing the playoffs three straight times from 1993-95. This past season was a dreary one, with the proud franchise making more news for internal squabbling than any on-court accomplishments.

"Decisions like this are difficult to make," team president Joe Dumars said. "I want to thank John for his hard work and dedication to the organization over the last two years, however, at this time we have decided to make a change."

Detroit won its third championship in 2004, part of a six-year streak in which the team reached at least the conference finals, but the Pistons went 27-55 in 2009-10 and 30-52 last season.

Empty seats were common at home games, and that, coupled with feuding between coaches and players, added to a sense of gloom.

Kuester didn't respond to a message seeking comment.

Kuester was hired in 2009 after two seasons as an assistant with Cleveland. He was also a member of Larry Brown's champion-ship-winning staff in 2004 with the Pistons, but his familiarity with at least some of the Detroit players was of little help as the team began to look increasingly dysfunctional.

Richard Hamilton and Kuester had a falling out that sent the veteran to the bench for most of a seven-week stretch. The two appeared to be on better terms toward the end of last season, but there was plenty of other drama.

Every healthy player started at least one game in 2010-11, and all except Ben Gordon received at least one DNP-Coach's Decision. Kuester benched point guard Rodney Stuckey barely a week into the season and benched him again with just over a week to go when there was friction between the two.

The low point was probably Feb. 25 in Philadelphia. Seven players missed at least part of a team shootaround, and Kuester played only the remaining six that night in a blowout loss to the 76ers.

Detroit actually improved by three games from Kuester's first season, but that wasn't enough to save his job. His firing appeared certain, and it happened quickly after Gores officially took control.

For much of the season, the team seemed in limbo because of a drawn-out sale by Davidson. The Pistons finally announced in April that Gores was going to take over, but the deal didn't become final until Wednesday.

Dumars said his hands were tied during the transition period. Now, the rebuilding process can begin in earnest, and finding a new coach will be an important step.

"At this time, we do not have a timetable for hiring a successor," Dumars said.

The Pistons will try to make the most of the next few weeks. They have the eighth pick in the June 23 draft, which is only a week before the NBA's collective bargaining agreement is set to expire.

Stricker holds on to win the Memorial



(AP)—The toughest test Steve Stricker faced Sunday at the Memorial was when he wasn't even play-

ing golf.

With a three-shot lead and just more than five holes remaining, Stricker had to spend two hours in the clubhouse waiting out a storm delay, leaving him plenty of time to imagine what could go wrong.

Never mind that he played the front nine in 20-under par, including a 30 in the final round. Or that on his last hole before the delay, he saved par with a bunker shot behind the 12th hole that Jack Nicklaus said was the best shot he hit all week.

"It's hard not to think about those last closing holes and just the unknown," Stricker said. "You don't know what's going to happen with the other players, you don't know how you're going to perform under the stretch, under the gun. At that point, you just want to get it done."

The way it ended was no surprise at all.

Stricker faced two clutch par putts down the stretch—from 15 feet on No. 16 and from 7 feet on No. 17-and poured them both in the center of the cup. He closed with a 4-under 68 for a one-shot victory over Matt Kuchar and Brandt Jobe to finally find the winning formula at Muirfield Village.

"I feel good when I've got the putter in my hand," Stricker said.

He felt even better when it was over, and he walked off the green to meet Nicklaus with a handshake and a hug.

"You've seen so many guys do that over the years, the winners coming off the green and getting greeted by Mr. Nicklaus," Stricker said. "And you always think one day that could be you. And it turned out it was me this year. It's

DUBLIN, **Ohio** a great thrill. It's a dream come true."

Stricker moved to No. 4 in the world to become the highest-ranked American for the first time in his career. He won for the 10th time in his career seven of those since turning his game around five years ago-and went over \$30 million in career earnings.

Kuchar and Jobe, the only players who could sustain the chase, each closed with a 65 to tie for second.

Dustin Johnson shot a 65 to finish fourth, followed

by Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, who had a 68. The biggest consolation prize went to Gary Woodland, who had a 68 to finish alone in Woodland sixth. likely will move to No. 40 in the world ranking, making him virtually a lock to get into the U.S. Open. He had faced a 36hole qualifier Monday morning.

Stricker, who led by four shots at the turn, made it more interesting than it needed to be, especially after a 2 1/2hour storm delay that slowed his momentum following

a spectacular bunker save behind the 12th green.

He had a three-shot lead with five holes to play when he missed a short birdie on the 14th, then pulled his tee shot into the woods on the par-5 15th to make a bogey. His lead was down to two, and he faced a tough finish.

Stricker found the back bunker on the par-3 16th and blasted out to 15 feet, lightly pumping his fist when it



Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, Sunday, June 5, 2011.

dropped in the center of the cup for par to keep the two-shot cushion. From the middle of the 17th fairway, he badly pushed his 6-iron off a mound and into a deep bunker right of the green. He splashed it out to 7 feet, and the par putt again was never in doubt.

Needing only a bogey to win, Stricker hit into a fairway bunker on the 18th, missed the green to the left and was happy to chip onto the top tier to 20 feet that locked up his first win of the year.

"I felt like I was just trying to hang on and get it in the house," Stricker said. "It's a tough way to play. I hit a bad drive at 15 that really made me feel pretty uncomfortable about this whole situation. But I made a couple great putts coming in and was fortunate enough to get the win."

Stricker finished at 16-under 272 and earned \$1,116,000.

Luke Donald, in his first tournament at No. 1 in the world, never had a chance to win but never quit trying. Donald closed with a 68 and tied for seventh, his 10th consecutive finish in the top 10 in worldwide golf.

It was a tale of two nines for Stricker, as it had been all week. He played the front nine in 20 under, including his six birdies Sunday when he made the turn in 30 to build the big lead. He played the back nine in 4 over, and didn't have another shot to spare.

"I needed them all the way I played the back nine," he said.

Kuchar and Jobe did all the could to catch him.

"My 5 under on the front didn't gain any ground on him," Kuchar said. "It was tough to see. Got two more on the back, played great golf. But looks like it's just not quite good enough."

Jobe has been battling injuries over the past several years, and the \$545,600 pushes him over \$1.16 million for the season and assures him keeping his card for next year. Jobe put the most pressure on Stricker by running off five straight birdies around the turn.

"I thought if we would have gone out and shot 65, that might have been good enough," Jobe said. "But it looks like we're going to be a little short. It was his tournament to kind of win or lose, and he's going out there and winning it."

Stricker now heads to Congressional in two weeks as one of the players who could be a big factor in the U.S. Open. He was a runner-up at Congressional in 2007 during the AT&T National, and that putting stroke goes a long way on any course.

"I don't know why he hasn't won a major yet," Nicklaus said. "But as long as he wants to play, the way he's playing, watch out at Congressiona, or watch out someplace. He'll get there."

Anderson struggles as A's lose to Boston, 6-3



BOSTON (AP)—Adrian Gonzalez hit a two-run homer to

reach 50 RBIs for the season and Carl Crawford had a three-run shot as the Boston Red Sox beat the Oakland Athletics 6-3 on Sunday.

John Lackey pitched into the sixth inning in his first start in nearly a month as Boston swept the A's to salvage a split of a six-game homestand that started with three losses to the White Sox.

Rangers 2, Indians 0

At Cleveland, C.J. Wilson pitched into the eighth inning and Mitch Moreland and Elvis Andrus homered as Texas earned its first four-game sweep in Cleveland in nearly 33 years.

Wilson (6-3) allowed three hits over 7 2-3 innings. The left-hander fanned seven, walked two and hit a batter.

Tigers 7, White Sox 3

At Chicago, Ryan Raburn hit a grand slam and Miguel Cabrera homered for the second straight day as Detroit topped Chicago.

The Tigers captured the last two in the weekend series to move within 2 1/2 games of AL Central-leading Cleveland. They have won 11 of 12 against the White Sox.

Twins 6, Royals 0

At Kansas City, Brian Duensing pitched eight sharp innings, and Jason Repko ended an 0-for-14 skid to drive in three runs as Minnesota beat Kansas City to complete its first four-game sweep in almost four years.

The four-game winning streak is a season best for the Twins, who were without Justin Morneau and Denard Span for the second straight day.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 4

At Baltimore, Adam Lind went 4 for 4 with two homers and three RBIs to back another winning effort by left-hander Jo-Jo Reyes as Toronto roughed up Jeremy Guthrie.

Yunel Escobar also homered and Edwin Encarnacion had three hits for the Blue Jays, who took two of three from the last-place Orioles.

Yankees 5, Angels 3

At Anaheim, Mark Teixeira homered twice against his former team and Nick Swisher also went deep as the New York Yankees beat the Los Angeles Angels to win the threegame series.

Bartolo Colon (3-3) allowed three runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings as the Yankees concluded a 6-3 road trip and maintained their one-game lead over Boston in the AL East.

Mariners 9, Rays 6

At Seattle, Miguel Olivo hit a tiebreaking three-run homer off Joel Peralta in the eighth inning to guide the Mariners to victory.

Ichiro Suzuki and Greg Halman each drove in two runs for Seattle, which has won six straight series and 14 of 18 games overall. Brandon League pitched a scoreless ninth for his 16th save, completing the Mariners' 15th come-from-behind victory. Jamey Wright (2-2) got the win.

Brewers 6, Marlins 5

At Miami, Josh Wilson homered with two outs in the 11th inning to give Milwaukee a win over Florida—the third straight day the Brewers had beaten the Marlins by a single run.

The Brewers won despite blowing a 5-0 lead. Wilson's homer off Mike Dunn (4-3) was the first hit for Milwaukee in 5 2-3 innings against Florida's bullpen. Milwaukee is 19-6 since May 9, best in the majors.

Phillies 7, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, Philadelphia ended a season-worst four-game losing skid and avoided being swept by Pittsburgh.

Phillies starter Roy Halladay (8-3) pitched seven effective innings, with six strikeouts and one walk, to equal the most wins in the majors this season.

Mets 6, Braves 4

At New York, knuckleballer R.A. Dickey pitched eight baffling innings to steer New York past Atlanta.

Jose Reyes hit an RBI double and scored twice while Carlos Beltran had a run-scoring double off Tim Hudson (4-5) before fouling a ball off his right shin and leaving the game with bruising.

Giants 2, Rockies 1

At San Francisco, Ryan Vogelsong pitched eight fantastic innings to give San Francisco a narrow win over Colorado.

Vogelsong (4-1) matched his career high with eight innings, giving up one run and one walk while striking out seven. He has allowed one run or less in each of his past six starts. Brian Wilson worked the ninth for his 17th save.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2, 10 innings

At St. Louis, Albert Pujols hit a gameending homer in extra innings for the second straight day, going long leading off the tenth to lift St. Louis over Chicago.

Pujols hammered a fastball from Rodrigo Lopez (0-1) an estimated 446 feet to left for his 10th career game-ending homer. It was his fifth homer during a seven-game homestand and No. 13 for the season, giving the Cardinals a three-game sweep over the Cubs.

Nationals 9, Diamondbacks 4, 11 innings

At Phoenix, Rick Ankiel drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out walk in the 11th inning and Mike Morse followed with a grand slam, leading Washington to victory over Arizona.

Managers Jim Riggleman of the Nationals and Kirk Gibson of the Diamondbacks were among four ejections, and Washington batters were hit by pitches four times.

Dodgers 9, Reds 6

At Cincinnati, pitcher Chad Billingsley shone with the bat, driving in a careerhigh three runs with a homer, a double and a bases-loaded walk, leading Los Angeles over Cincinnati.

Billingsley (5-4) lasted only five innings at the mound, but helped himself build a big lead. He hit a solo homer-the second of his career - in the second inning off Travis Wood (4-4). Billingsley drew a bases-loaded walk during the Dodgers' three-run third. His RBI double ended Wood's outing in the fifth and made it 8-4.

Padres 7, Astros 2

At San Diego, the hosts won three straight home games for the first time this season, downing Houston.

Padres' Chase Headley extended his career-high hitting streak to 15 games with an RBI double.

NADAL

From Page 28

He won't acknowledge publicly that Nadal drives him crazy with those high-bouncing lefty forehands that arrive shoulder-high on Federer's backhand side, and that perpetual-motion, cover-every-spot, never-cede-a-thing scrambling that forces an opponent to produce several superb shots just to earn a single point.

"It's always pretty straightforward when we play each other ... because we know what to expect," Federer said. "I'm not in any way frustrated with his play.'

Perhaps that's true, but consider this: Federer is 14-1 in the Grand Slam finals he has played against any other opponent. The only time Federer won the French Open, in 2009, he avoided Nadal, who was eliminated in the fourth round that year by Robin Soderling.

Nadal, for his part, doesn't like to boast about his supremacy over Federer, whom he always refers to as the top player ever.

But Toni Nadal, Rafael's uncle and coach, spoke plainly after Sunday's match.

"The game of Rafael is not too good for Roger," Toni said, adding that Federer's "mentality against Rafael is not the best.

On Sunday, Federer raced to a 5-2 at the outset, but blew a set point by missing

From Page 28

INSIDE

From Page 28

a drop shot that landed barely wide.

"I definitely thought that I got maybe a touch unlucky there, and he got a touch lucky," Federer said. "That was one of my bigger chances."

Nadal then won seven games in a row. Later, when Nadal went up a break in the third and led 4-2, the match appeared over, until Federer charged back to force a fourth set.

But Nadal once more assumed control, winning the last five games, then dropping to his knees and leaning forward with his hands covering his eyes.

"I was able to play my best when I needed my best," Nadal said. "For that reason, today I am here with the trophy."

Midway through the tournament, Nadal talked down his chances, admonishing himself for not hitting the ball with enough "conviction" and questioning whether he was playing well enough to take home the title. After all, he fell behind unseeded John Isner of the United States 2-1 in sets in the first round, pushed to five sets for the only time in his seven trips to the French Open.

"Last week, when Rafael was playing so badly," Uncle Toni recounted Sunday evening, "to lift some of the pressure, I told him: 'Stay calm. Winning or losing won't change your life."

Not that Sunday's match needed any assistance in the drama department. but a little extra came in the form of a rain delay-the very first of the entire

15-day tournament—while Nadal was serving to take a two-set lead.

He had a set point at 5-4, 40-30, but wasted it with a forehand that clipped the net and flew long. That made it deuce, and that's when drops began falling. As spectators pulled on hats and popped open umbrellas, Nadal and Federer waited a few seconds before walking off the court.

Federer slipped into a private trainer's room and hopped up on a table. Nadal switched shirts and fidgeted with his racket strings in a hallway, then had a brief chat with his mentor.

"Rafael was very nervous in the locker room," Uncle Toni said. "I (told) him: 'It's difficult for you. But it's very difficult for him, too."

After a 10-minute break, the match resumed, and Nadal immediately earned a second set point. But Federer saved that one, too, opening an eightpoint run for him. And then it was Nadal's turn to take eight points in a row, including a 4-0 lead in the tiebreaker, which he eventually closed with a forehand winner.

Federer wasn't finished, breaking Nadal at love to get within 4-3 in the third set. When Federer struck a forehand winner down the line to break again and go ahead 6-5, he earned a standing ovation and chants of "Roger! Ro-ger!" from thousands of fans at Court Philippe Chatrier.

"When Roger plays like this," Nadal

willing, and able to host a great Pacif-

ic Mini Games in 2017," the NMASA

Sept. 4 during the PGC General As-

The winning bid will be decided on

Between Nauru and Vanuatu, the

said, "the opponent has nothing to do, sometimes.'

With the crowd roaring each time he won a point, Federer served out the set, capping it with another forehand winner. The outcome seemed in doubt. Federer had won 117 points, Nadal 116.

"All of a sudden, at 0-0 in the fourth set," Federer said, "you think, 'OK, we have a match again.'

Nadal served to begin the fourth set, and Federer quickly gained three break points at love-40. This, then, would be the final twist. Nadal erased two break points with groundstroke winners, and the third with an ace at 120 mph. A service winner at 114 mph followed. Then Federer shanked a backhand off his frame and into the stands.

"Very important for me, no?" Nadal would say later. "That was a big turning point of the match, in my opinion."

That made it 1-0, and Federer held to 1-1. But that was it. Nadal didn't lose another game as the sun finally broke through the gray clouds, bathing the court in light. An appropriate conclusion for Nadal, the kid from the island of Mallorca who loves to spend free time fishing or at the beach.

On the back of each of the sky-blue sneakers that kept carrying him to balls that should have been out of reach, Nadal had the number "5" in a circle signifying his French Open title count until Sunday.

Time to order a new pair.

contest a three-country fight.

Among the three nations, the CNMI has the most available facilities. The Commonwealth's venues are in place and will need only repairs, while both Nauru and Vanuatu are proposing to build new facilities, which will take years and more money to complete.

The Commonwealth also has the cheapest per diem at \$30. Both Nauru and Vanuatu offer \$50 per diem.

the president and executive director will make a report to the full Pacific Games Council in Noumea as to the state of the candidate's facilities and their readiness to host the Games. This report will be an important consideration for members of the Council when they make their decision as

"It may not be that much for oth-

ers, but it's a big deal for our athletes.

They have regular weights training

for strength and conditioning, but

with several dumbbells and Olympic

weights gone, they have to impro-

vise for now so as not to disrupt their

preparations for future tournaments,'

NMA will be sending four athletes

to Apia, Samoa later this month for the

2011 Oceania Regional Championships

and will also have representatives to the

IAAF World Youth Athletics in France,

World Championship in Korea, and the

to where the Games will be held," White said.

"NMASA and the CNMI 2017 Pacific Mini Games Bid Committee are confident that our facilities are unmatched among the candidates for the 2017 Games, and that, with the full and united support of Governor Fitial and the other key people from the public and private sectors, we can show our visitors that we are ready,

Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

Rangamar raised concern on the bur-

glary at the facility, as NMA is now in

charge of the maintenance and use of

the weight room and the Oleai Sports

Complex track and field facility based

on the memorandum of understand-

ing signed by NMA, the Department

of Community and Cultural Affairs,

and the Northern Marianas Amateur

we're about to iron things out here this

burglary happened. We're very disap-

pointed and feel bad for our athletes,"

more equipment missing and they need

The coach suspects there may be

"It's just unfortunate that just when

Sports Association.

Rangamar said.

sembly in New Caledonia.

head added

CNMI is considering the latter as its toughest opponent in the hosting rights race. The Norfolk Islands last month withdrew its bid, making the

to check the inventory from the Divi-

sion of Sports and Recreation to have a

The NMA official estimated the cost

Division of Sports and Recreation

of the stolen equipment through the

deputy director Jojo Attao admitted

that if an inventory done two years ago

is compared to the one they had about

three weeks ago, there will be a lot of

"We have missing dumbbells, Olym-

pic weights, free weights, and other

stuff. We reported the burglary inci-

dents in the past to the police, including

last Saturday's but we haven't gotten

any feedbacks," Attao said.

clearer picture about the facility.

Right now, the Ada Gym is temporarily closed to the public. The restrooms are undergoing repairs and Attao said next up for fixing are the roofs, floor-

Later this month, Pacific Games Council officials will be in town for a site visit and to gauge the CNMI's capability to host the 2017 Pacific Mini Games. The visitors are expected to tour the Oleai Sports Complex.

A few weeks ago, according to Rangamar, another official left his bag at the gym and when he came back after only a few minutes, it was gone. In the past years, players who had games at the facility also had valuable items stolen.

ing, and bleachers.

FITIAL

From Page 28

The Marianas Elite fighter won four matches in a row before the controversial draw against Martinez in their first meeting in PXC 22: Battle For The Belt in late January of this year.

Fitial comes into the rematch with an 11-6-2 win-loss-draw card with one no-contest, while Martinez (5-3-1) dropped two fights before the no-decision against the Saipan fighter.

"I've been waiting for a long time for this and am ready for the challenge. Of course I want to thank Ed (Arriola) and Lionel (Borja) for being by my side and I want to also thank my sponsor Paul Blas and Rush Gear as well as my family, friends, and everyone on Saipan for their support. I want everyone to know that I am going over there to finish what I started," said Fitial in a telephone interview yesterday.

"Kelvin has been training hard,

working on his cardio for the past four months. He has been practicing on the mat and hitting the bags with corner man Lionel Borja three times a week," said Fitial's manager Ed Arriola in a phone interview yesterday.

According to Arriola, Fitial has also been routinely undergoing aqua-training sessions as well as running up to five miles a day, while playing basketball in two leagues.

Arriola and Borja will be joining the locally acclaimed "People's Champ" on his trip to the Philippines.

As for Martinez, he said his training is going great and feels well prepared for the fight.

"This time I just want to go into this and have fun and fight smart. I think I fought with too much emotion last time. I've really picked up my strength training for this fight and I feel a lot more explosive," stated Martinez yesterday in an Internet chat session.

Both fighters also wished each oth-

er good luck.

disparities.

This will be Martinez's first fight in the Philippines, however he has fought off-island twice in Japan and five times in the U.S.

Fitial fought once before in the Philippines and has also competed off-island in Hong Kong and Korea.

Other fighters making the trip include Martinez's teammates "Baby" Joe Taimanglo (10-4-1) and Ricky Camp (1-0).

Taimanglo is on a four-match winning streak since September 2009 and will welcome Korea's Young Jun Kim to the cage in his mixed martial arts debut, while Camp will be setting his sights for win No. 2 against the Philippines' Carlos Tiongson (3-1).

In addition, Ground Fu's Tony Reves (5-1), Counter Shot MMA's Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez (6-3), and Guahan Top Team's Alex Castro (6-8) will also be part of the action.

Reyes only fought twice since De-

cember 2009, but won them both and will challenge USA's Roland Perez (6-4-1) of Alliance MMA, while Alvarez will try to bounce back from a pair of losses since last July and will take on the Philippines' Rogelito Plomeda (2-1).

Like Reyes, Castro has also notched two wins in as many fights since December 2009. He will be pitted against USA's Harris "The Hit-man" Sarmiento (31-22) of Hawaii's 808 Fight Factory. The 28-year-old Hawaiian had a flawless 2010, but lost his last two fights since January of this year.

Fighters from the U.S., the Philippines, Brazil, South Korea, Guam, Hawaii, and Saipan are all scheduled to compete in PXC 24.

After the rematch. Fitial plans to return home immediately in time to help coach and support his fellow Marianas Elite fighters in Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' Trench Warz 14: Ground Zero on June 17.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division GB New York Boston Tampa Bay 24 26 29 29 31 **Central Division** Cleveland Detroit Chicago .579 .534 .459 .424 .362 24 27 33 34 37 2 1/2 Kansas City Minnesota West Division Los Angeles **NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division** .593 Philadelphia Florida Atlanta New York 31 32 28 26 26 28 31 33 .544 .533 .475 .441 3 3 1/2 Washington **Central Division** St. Louis Milwaukee Cincinnati Pittsburgh 25 .590 .559 .500 .483 .404 .383 33 30 28 23 23 26 30 30 34 37 Chicago 11 12 1/2 Houston West Division 26 27 32 31 33 1/2 5 1/2 5 1/2 6 1/2

Yesterday's Games

San Diego

L.A. Dodgers 9, Cincinnati 6 Milwaukee 6, Florida 5, 11 innings Philadelphia 7, Pittsburgh 3 St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 2, 10 innings San Francisco 2, Colorado 1 Washington 9, Arizona 4, 11 innings Washington 9, Arizona 4
San Diego 7, Houston 2
N.Y. Mets 6, Atlanta 4
Texas 2, Cleveland 0
Boston 6, Oakland 3
Toronto 7, Baltimore 4 Detroit 7, Chicago White Sox 3 Minnesota 6, Kansas City 0 N.Y. Yankees 5, L.A. Angels 3 Seattle 9, Tampa Bay 6

THE MEMORIAL SCORES

DUBLIN. Ohio (AP)-Scores Saturday at The Memorial, a \$6.2 million US PGA Tour event at the 7,352-yard, par-72 Muirfield Village Golf Club (aamateur):

68-67-69-68-272

Steve Stricker (500), \$1,116,000 Matt Kuchar (245), \$545,600 Brandt Jobe (245), \$545,600 Dustin Johnson (135), \$297,600 68-73-70-65-276 Rory McIlroy (0), \$248,000 Gary Woodland (100), \$223,200 Kevin Streelman (78), \$174,117 Luke Donald (78), \$174,117 66-72-71-68-277 72-69-69-68-278 70-69-73-68-280 John Senden (78), \$174,117 Webb Simpson (78), \$174,117 Mark Wilson (78), \$174,117 Jonathan Byrd (78), \$174,117 Bo Van Pelt (56), \$112,840 71-70-71-68-280 72-70-70-68-280 70-73-66-71—280 71-67-69-73—280 72-70-72-67—281 Phil Mickelson (56), \$112,840 Ben Curtis (56), \$112,840 Brett Wetterich (56), \$112,840 Hunter Mahan (56), \$112,840 Brian Davis (53), \$89,900 Ricky Barnes (53), \$89,900 D.A. Points (51), \$77,500 Scott Stallings (51), \$77,500 K.J. Choi (46), \$54,405 Rickie Fowler (46), \$54,405 Rvan Moore (46), \$54,405 Kevin Stadler (46), \$54,405 Angel Cabrera (46), \$54,405 Charl Schwartzel (46), \$54,405 Charles Howell III (46), \$54,405 Shaun Micheel (46), \$54,405 Chris Riley (38), \$36,846 Pat Perez (38), \$36,846 Bryce Molder (38), \$36,846 Stewart Cink (38), \$36,846 Zack Miller (38), \$36,846 Camilo Villegas (38), \$36,846 Troy Matteson (38), \$36,846 Vijay Singh (32), \$27,900 Blake Adams (32), \$27,900 Kyle Stanley (32), \$27,900 Davis Love III (32), \$27,900 Kevin Chappell (32), \$27,900 Charley Hoffman (28), \$22,940 Bubba Watson (28), \$22,940 Scott Piercy (28), \$22,940 Ryuji Imada (24), \$17,732 Drew Weaver (0), \$17,732 Josh Teater (24), \$17,732 Bill Haas (24), \$17,732 Bill Haas (24), \$17,732 Aaron Baddeley (24), \$17,732 J.J. Henry (24), \$17,732 Chris Couch (16), \$14,285 Ariun Atwal (16), \$14,285 Chris DiMarco (16), \$14,285 Jason Bohn (16), \$14,285 Brendan Steele (16), \$14,285 J.B. Holmes (16), \$14,285 Rocco Mediate (16), \$14,285 Matt Bettencourt (16), \$14,285 Nick O'Hern (16), \$14,285 Rod Pampling (16), \$14,285 Ernie Els (10), \$13,516 Marc Leishman (9), \$13,392 Johnson Wagner (5), \$12,896 Daniel Summerhays (5), \$12,896 Robert Karlsson (5), \$12,896 Charlie Wi (5), \$12,896 Edoardo Molinari (0), \$12,896 Chez Reavie (5), \$12,896 Brendon de Jonge (5), \$12,896 David Duval (1), \$12,400 Justin Leonard (1), \$12,152 Robert Garrigus (1), \$12,152 Alex Cejka (1), \$12,152

72-70-72-67-281 70-75-69-67-281 70-71-70-70-281 69-72-69-71-281 73-71-70-68-282 68-70-74-70-282 71-72-72-68—283 68-76-68-71—283 70-73-73-68—284 68-73-74-69—284 69-70-75-70-284 71-68-75-70—284 70-73-71-70—284 72-71-70-71—284 72-70-70-72-284 69-73-67-75-284 66-75-77-67-285 71-74-73-67-285 68-73-76-68-285 68-73-74-70-285 72-73-70-70-285 73-69-68-75-285 73-72-76-65-286 71-73-72-70-286 72-73-71-70—286 69-73-72-72—286 69-74-75-69-287 75-69-71-72-287 75-67-69-76-287 71-70-77-70-288 71-70-75-72-288 67-72-77-72-288 71-71-74-72-288 71-71-74-72-266 71-68-75-74-288 70-75-69-74-288 70-73-76-70-289 73-71-74-71-289 67-77-74-71-289 70-71-76-72-289 70-71-76-72-289 72-72-72-73-289 68-76-72-73—289 68-72-75-74—289 73-72-70-74—289 72-66-72-79-289 71-73-75-71-290 73-71-66-81-291 71-74-77-70—292 72-71-80-69—292 74-71-76-71—292 73-72-73-74-292 72-69-76-75-292 75-69-73-75-292 71-73-73-75-292 72-73-75-76-296 73-72-79-73-297 69-75-74-79-297 71-72-74-80-297

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011 **27**

2011 NMIFA Youth Spring Football Festival

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Shirley's FC U8 striker dribbles against two Tan Holdings defenders during the 2011 NMIFA Youth Spring Football Festival at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.



An MP United player kicks the ball during their game against Matansa at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.



Paire and Matansa players in action near the net during their game at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.



A Paire Football Club player, left, is chased by a Matansa defender during their game at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.



A Matansa player, right, kicks the ball during their U12 game against Shirley's FC at the Saipan Southern High School Field.



MP United players take a water break.



Two female players from MP United and Paire chase the ball during their U12 game at the Saipan Southern High School Field.



A Shirley's FC striker gets ready to kick the ball against two Matansa defenders during their U12 game at the Saipan Southern High School Field.



A Paire striker has possession against two MP United players during their U12 game at the Saipan Southern High School Field.



Players and coaches exchange hi-fives after the game.

28 TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nadal beats Federer for 6th French Open title

AP TENNIS WRITER

ARIS (AP)— Regardless of the setting or surface, Rafael Nadal confounds Roger Federer the way no other man can.

Put the two greats of the game on opposite ends of a court in a Grand Slam final—particularly at Roland Garros, on the red clay that Nadal rules-and the one-sided nature of the rivalry grows even more pronounced.

Grinding along the baseline,



using every inch of his wingspan extend points, whipping fear-

some forehands this way and that, Nadal flummoxed Federer yet again Sunday in a riveting, highlight-filled match, beating him 7-5, 7-6 (3), 5-7, 6-1 for a record-tying sixth French Open championship and 10th major title overall.

"He plays better against the better ones, and that's what he showed today," said Federer, owner of 16 Grand Slam trophies. "He's a great champion, on clay, especially."

There's no question that Nadal is as good as it gets in Par-



Spain's Rafael Nadal bites the cup after defeating Switzerland's Roger Federer in the men's final match for the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium, Sunday, June 5, 2011, in Paris.

Bjorn Borg—but the Spaniard already also has shown that he is much more than the King of Clay. And Sunday's victory only

is—45-1 for his career, and the will raise more questions about same number of titles there as whether Federer truly deserves to be called the Greatest of All Time if he is not even the Greatest of Right Now.

Nadal leads their head-to-

head series 17-8. That includes a 6-2 advantage in Grand Slam finals and a 5-0 edge at the French Open (in the 2005 semifinals, and the 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2011 finals).

numbers and asked for an assessment, Nadal replied: "Well, it means I can play well, too."

When a reporter recited those

"When you talk about these statistics, when you try and

make these comparisons, really it's not very interesting to me," continued Nadal, who would have ceded the No. 1 ranking to Novak Djokovic with a loss Sunday. "I'm very happy with what I have, with who I am. I'm not the best player in the history of tennis. I think I'm among the best. That's true. That's enough for me."

He's rapidly gaining on Federer. Nadal turned 25 Friday, making him about six months younger than Federer was when the Swiss star collected his 10th major title.

Their rivalry is a friendly not heated-one. Nadal conceded a point Sunday when he saw Federer's shot landed in but was called out. A few years ago, Federer gave Nadal a lift on a private jet from one tournament site to another after learning his on-court nemesis had trouble finding a commercial flight.

This was their first meeting in a Grand Slam final in more than two years. It also was the first major championship match contested by any two men who already completed career Grand Slams. And Nadal and Federer put on a worthy show, more than 3 1/2 hours chock-full of lengthy exchanges, brilliant defense, sublime shotmaking, and some dizzying shifts of momentum.

"A big occasion," the thirdseeded Federer said. "I was aware of it."

See NADAL on Page 26

Inside job suspected in Ada Gym burglary

Mini Games site visit set

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER



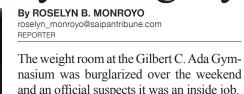
Top ficials of Games Council

will be on Saipan later this month to visit the proposed venues under the CNMI's 2017 Mini Games hosting bid.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White said PGC president Vidhva Lakhan of Fiji and executive director Andrew Minogue will have a site visit on June 28 and may also meet with local officials.

"The Pacific Games Charter requires that a site visit be undertaken to all candidates to host a Pacific Games or Pacific Mini Games, so the PGC will be visiting Vanuatu and Nauru, along with the CNMI. As a result of these visits, See MINI on Page 26

Northern Marianas Athletics developmental coach Elias Rangamar points at the spot at the weight room where the stolen Olympic weights were placed.



"I believed it's an inside job, as when I came to the gym, the door (northeast en-

trance) was closed, but not locked and not broken. There was no forced entry," said Northern Marianas Athletics development coach Elias Rangamar. Rangamar, who is a former staff of the

Division of Sports and Recreation, which oversees the Ada Gym, said he went to the facility last Saturday morning for a training session with the girls U15 basketball team and was surprised to find out the door was closed, but not locked. He then proceeded to the weight room, which was adjacent to the gym and there found several dumbbells and Olympic weights missing.

"The strange thing was the new arrangement of the dumbbells. The heavier dumbbells are now placed at the rack where the lighter ones were formerly located before they were stolen," Rangamar said.

The Olympic weights were all donations and were specifically put at the weight room for the use of NMA athletes.

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Kelvin Fitial, left, battles Guam's Roque Martinez in PXC 22: Battle For the Belt's main event in January this at the University of Guam

Fitial-Martinez rematch in PXC 24

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com

Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial will take on Spike 22's Roque Martinez in the main event of Pacific

Xtreme Combat 24 set for this will be held in the Southeast Saturday, June 11, at the Resorts World Manila's Newport

Performing Arts Theater in Pasay City, Philippines.

Fitial left on a flight for Guam yesterday to join a convoy of Guam fighters who will also be featured in a ninebout fight card. It will be the first time PXC

Asian country.

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